

MODERN COMICS

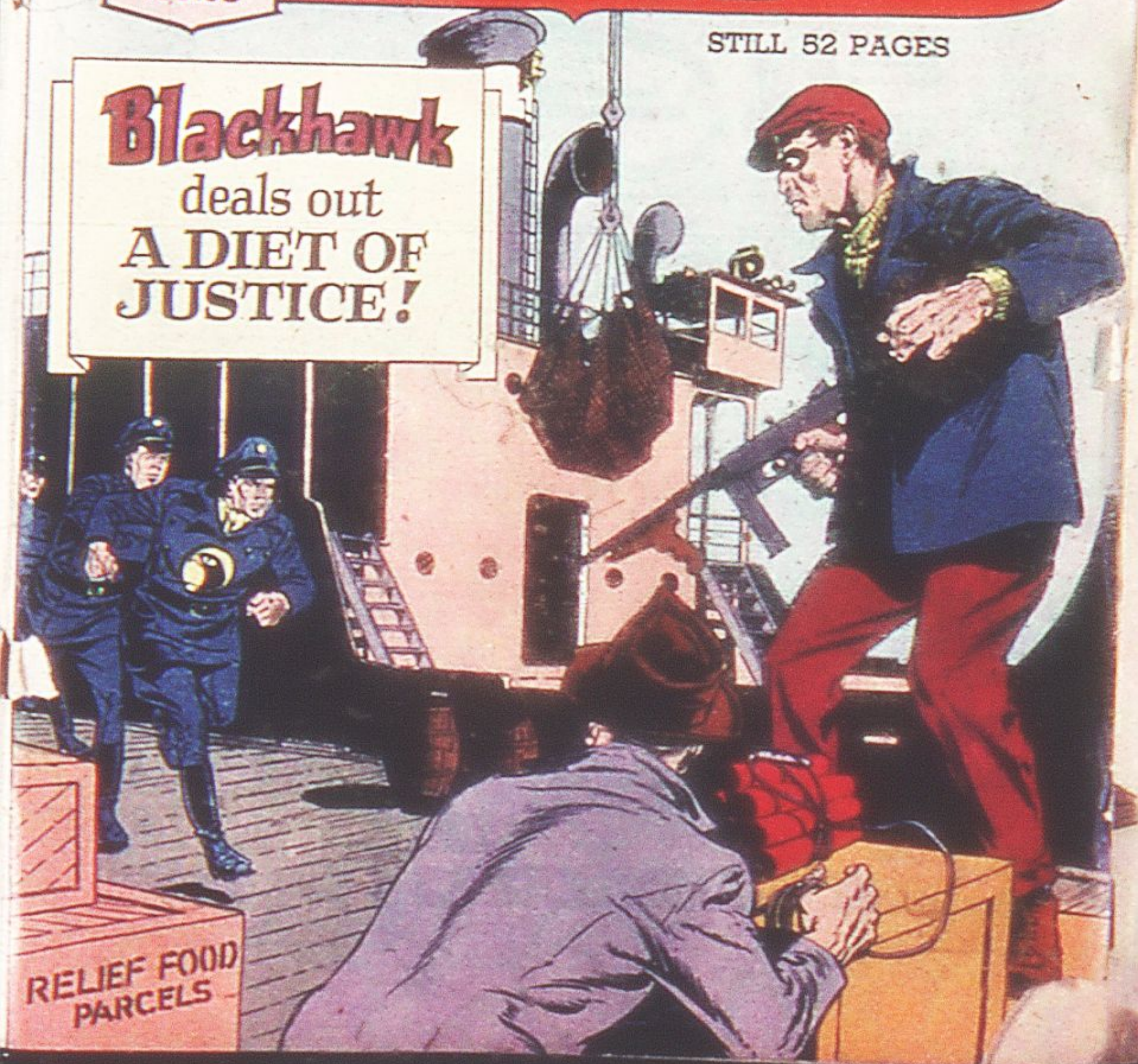
MARCH
No.83

10¢

STILL 52 PAGES

Blackhawk

deals out
**A DIET OF
JUSTICE!**



RELIEF FOOD
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WEB COMIC
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Be the life of the party! Tie flashes on and off from button hidden in pocket. Complete with bulbs, battery and cord. Only \$1.98. Order No. 771.

DRIBBLE GLASS

Make your drinking friends drink! Looks just like ordinary glass and shaped, water dribbles through this in side! No one can detect it! Roaring laughs everywhere! No. 542 just 49c.



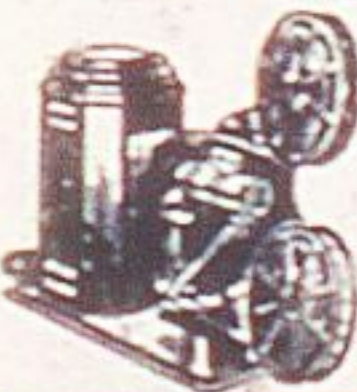
NOW BROADCAST IN YOUR HOME WITH THIS AMAZING RADIO "MIKE"

Revolutionary new invention attaches to your radio. Speak into Mike and your own voice comes through the speaker, as if you were broadcasting! Amuse your friends as your voice comes over the air. No one can tell the difference unless you give the joke away! Amazing "MIKE" looks just like a real microphone. Get one today! Just \$1.49. Order by number No. 641.

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Hand Operated

Show your own movies at home. Easy to use.



Safe, 100-foot film capacity. Uses regular home type electric light bulb. Wide choice films available. Use order coupon. Only \$7.95. No. 808.



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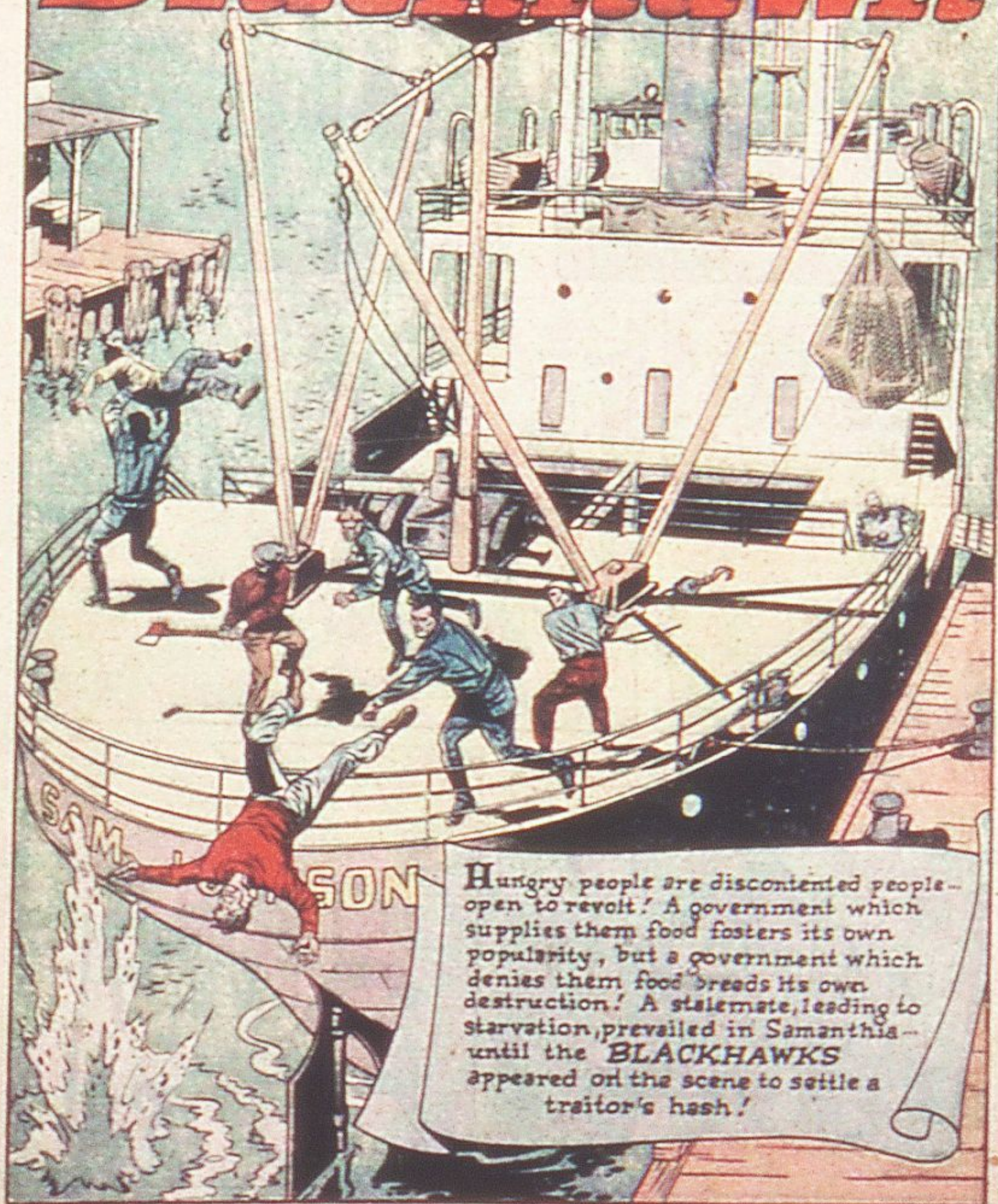
- ☐ 449 JOY BUZZER.....\$.49
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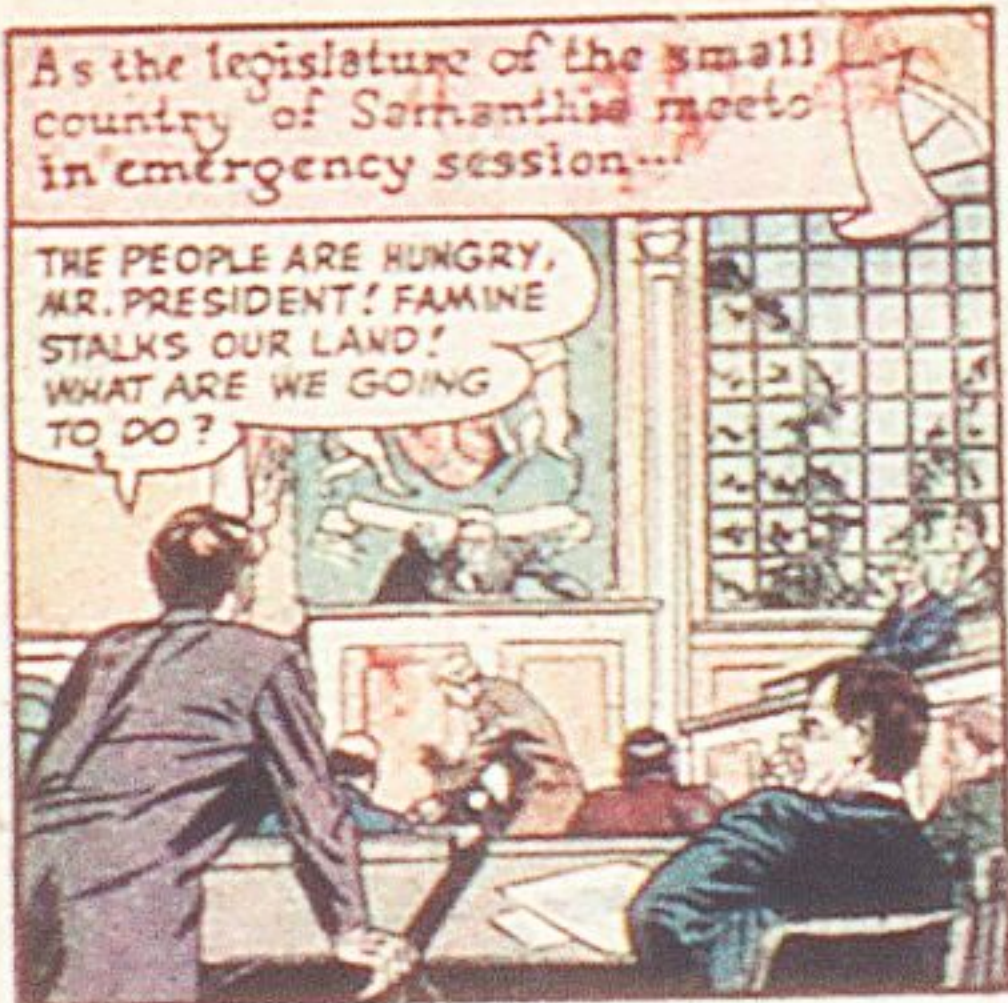
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CITY _____ STATE _____

USE THIS SPECIAL ORDER BLANK

Blackhawk



Hungry people are discontented people—open to revolt! A government which supplies them food fosters its own popularity, but a government which denies them food breeds its own destruction! A stalemate, leading to starvation, prevailed in Samanthia—until the **BLACKHAWKS** appeared on the scene to settle a traitor's hash!



As the legislature of the small country of Serranthis meets in emergency session...

THE PEOPLE ARE HUNGRY, MR. PRESIDENT! FAMINE STALKS OUR LAND! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

AS YOU ALL KNOW, THE UNITED STATES HAS PROMISED TO SEND US FOOD! I AM DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT NONE HAS ARRIVED AS YET! I WILL CONTACT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND ASK WHEN WE MIGHT EXPECT A RELIEF SHIP!



MR. PRESIDENT!

THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES MR. FEBRE, LEADER OF THE MINORITY BLOC!



WE ARE FOOLS TO WAIT FOR THE UNITED STATES! THEY WILL NEVER SEND US ANY HELP! ALL THEY DO IS PROMISE, BUT THEY NEVER KEEP THEIR PROMISES!

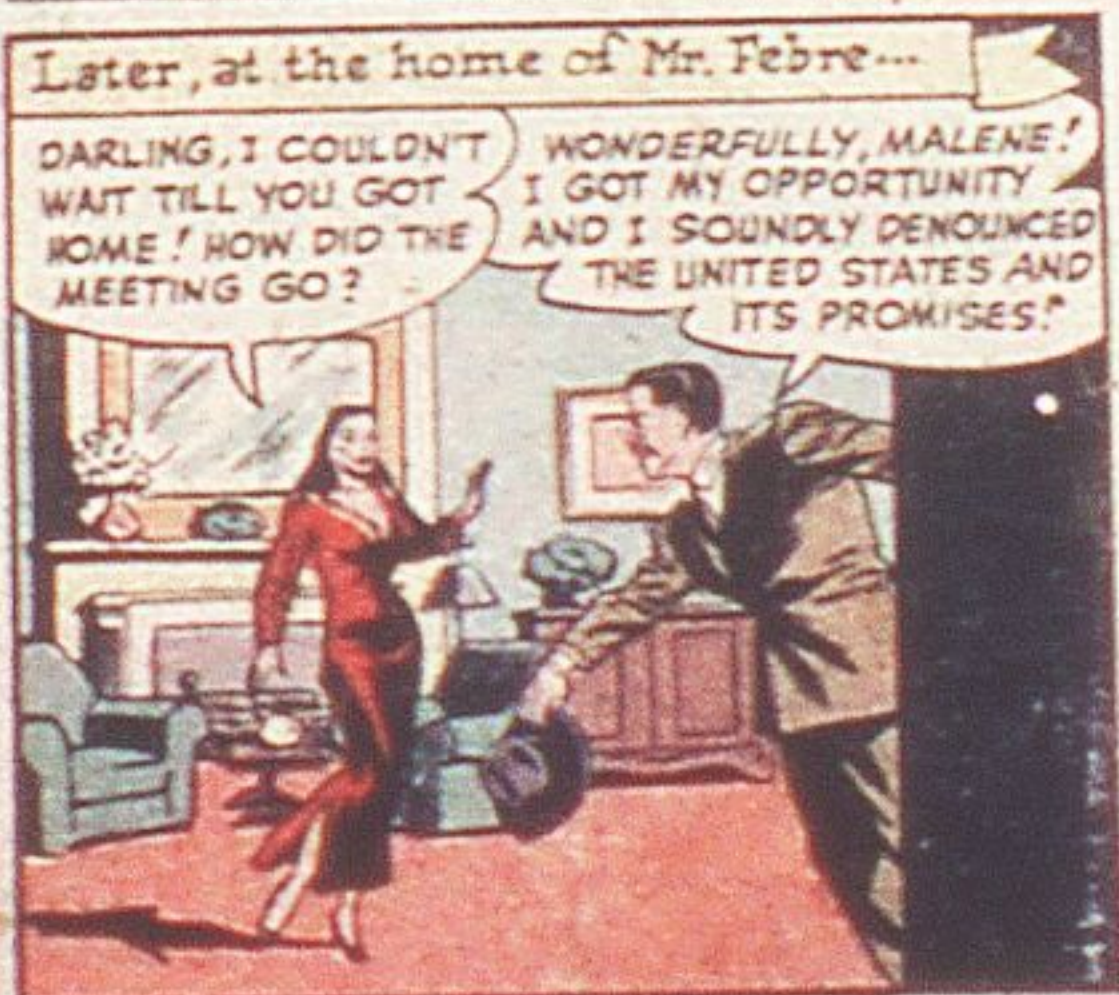


I SAY WE ARE TIRED OF PROMISES!

SIT DOWN!

HEAR! HEAR!

YOU'VE SAID ENOUGH!



Later, at the home of Mr. Febre...

DARLING, I COULDN'T WAIT TILL YOU GOT HOME! HOW DID THE MEETING GO?

WONDERFULLY, MALENE! I GOT MY OPPORTUNITY AND I SOUNDLY DENOUNCED THE UNITED STATES AND ITS PROMISES!



IT'S A GOOD THING NO ONE SUSPECTS WE SANK THE TWO RELIEF SHIPS THE AMERICANS SENT OUT!

AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP AMERICAN RELIEF OUT OF THIS COUNTRY!

THEN, WHEN THE PEOPLE GET HUNGRY ENOUGH, THEY WILL LISTEN TO MY SPEECHES AND REVOLT!



In the meantime, at the capitol...

THE AMERICANS HAVE REPLIED TO OUR WIRELESS! THEY SAY TWO FOOD SHIPS SHOULD HAVE ARRIVED ALREADY, BUT THEY WILL SEND OUT ANOTHER AT ONCE!



Next day, as the famed Blackhawk Squadron appears over Samanthaia...

THAT'S THE CAPITOL BELOW! BLACKHAWKS, PREPARE TO LAND!



Soon...

BLACKHAWK! IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN!



AND IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY... ANDRE, OLAF, CHUCK, HENDRICKSON, STANISLAUS AND CHOP CHOP!

OUI! AY! JA! HERE! RIGHT! IS RIGHT!

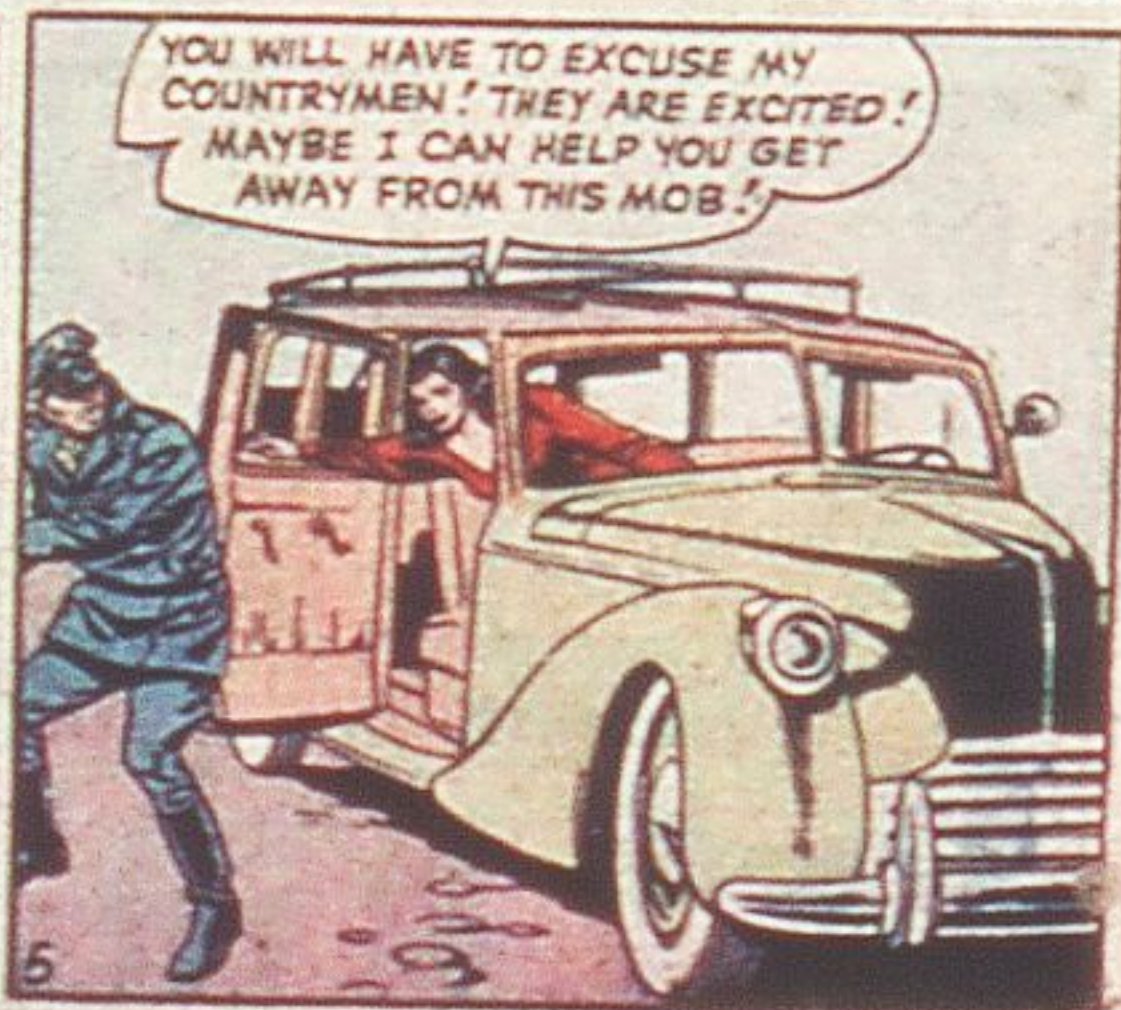


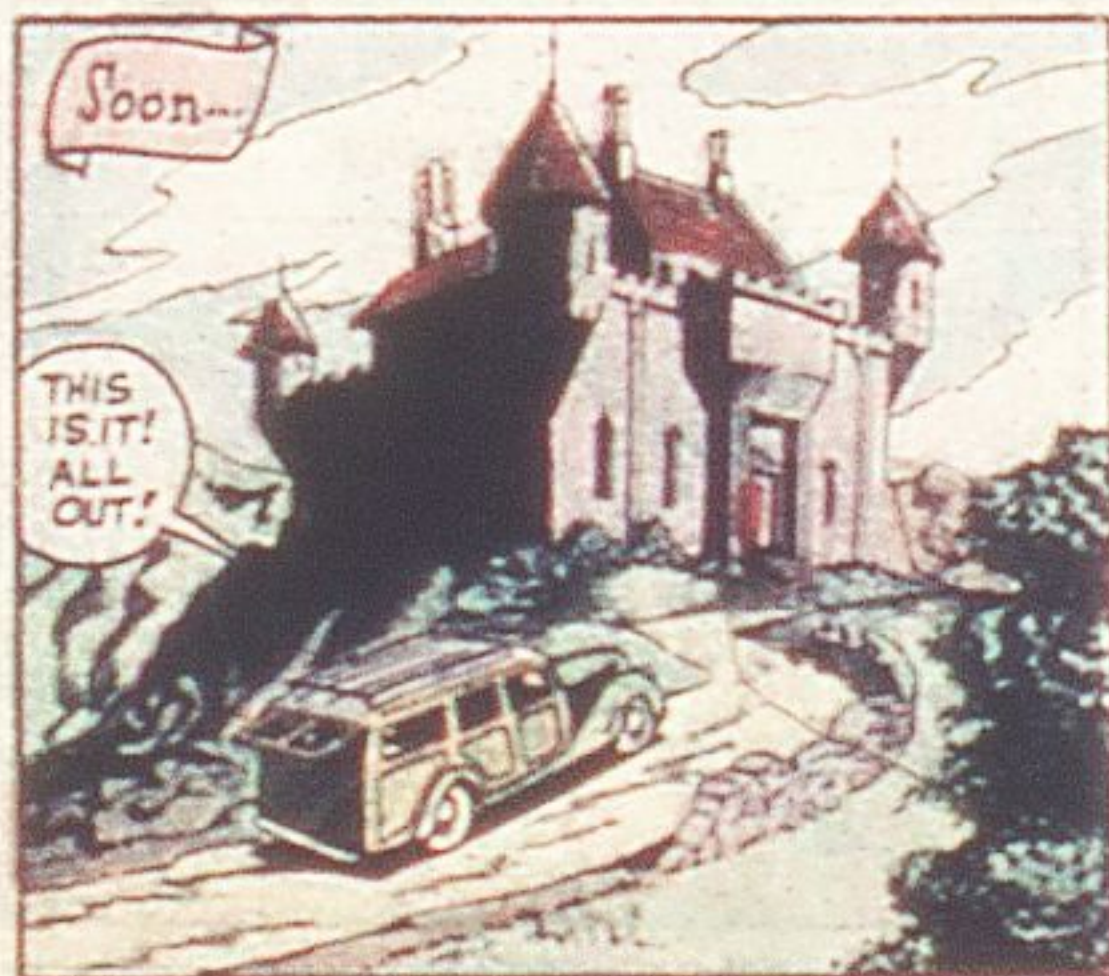
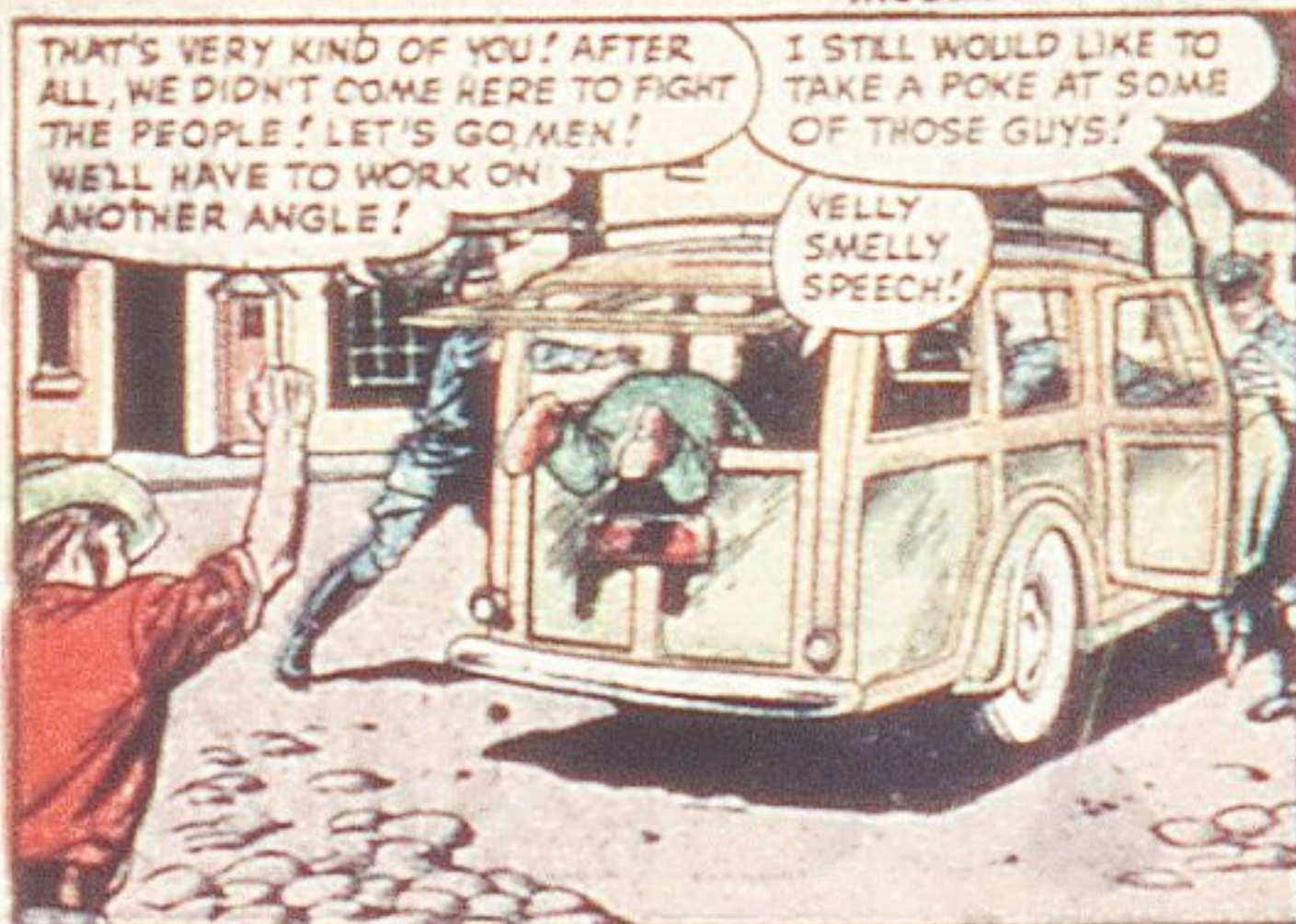
WE ARE HERE TO ENSURE THE ARRIVAL OF THE THIRD RELIEF SHIP! RADIO CONTACT WAS LOST WITH THE FIRST TWO WHEN THEY WERE FIFTY MILES OFF SHORE, AND NOW, WE FIND THEY NEVER ARRIVED!

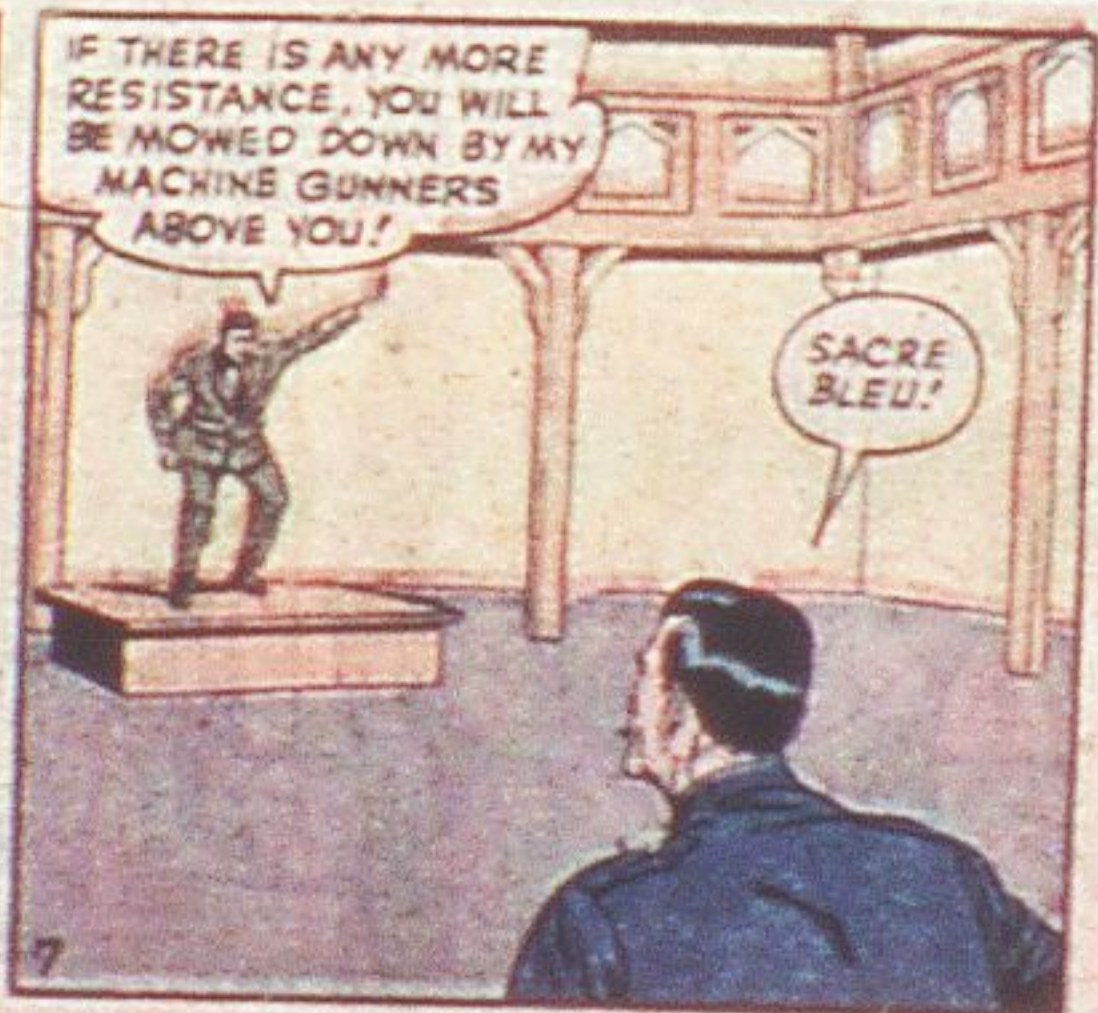
YES, IT'S QUITE A MYSTERY... WE WILL ALL BE GRATEFUL IF YOU CAN HELP! I WILL SEE TO IT THAT YOU AND YOUR MEN HAVE FREE REIN IN THE MATTER!



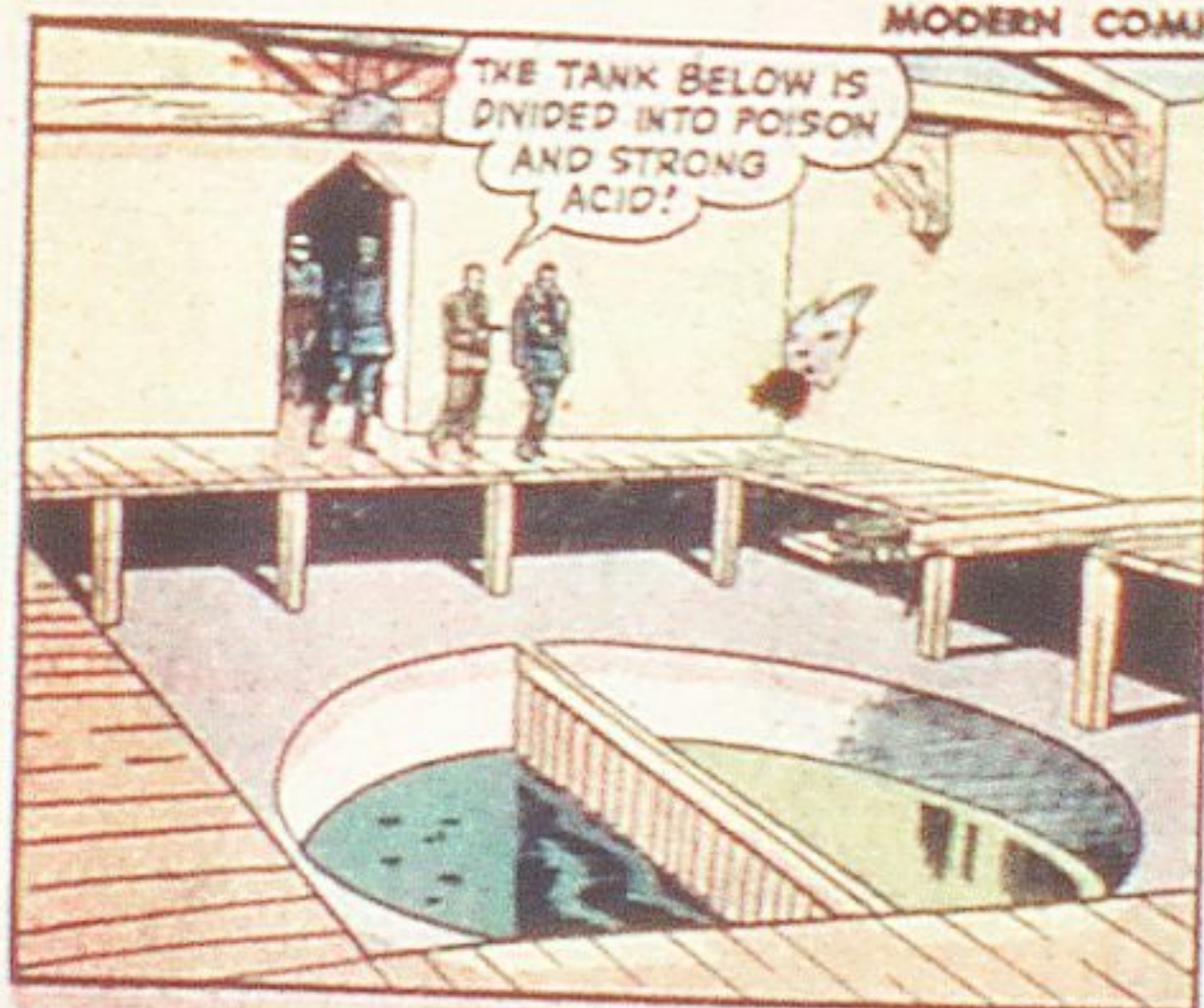




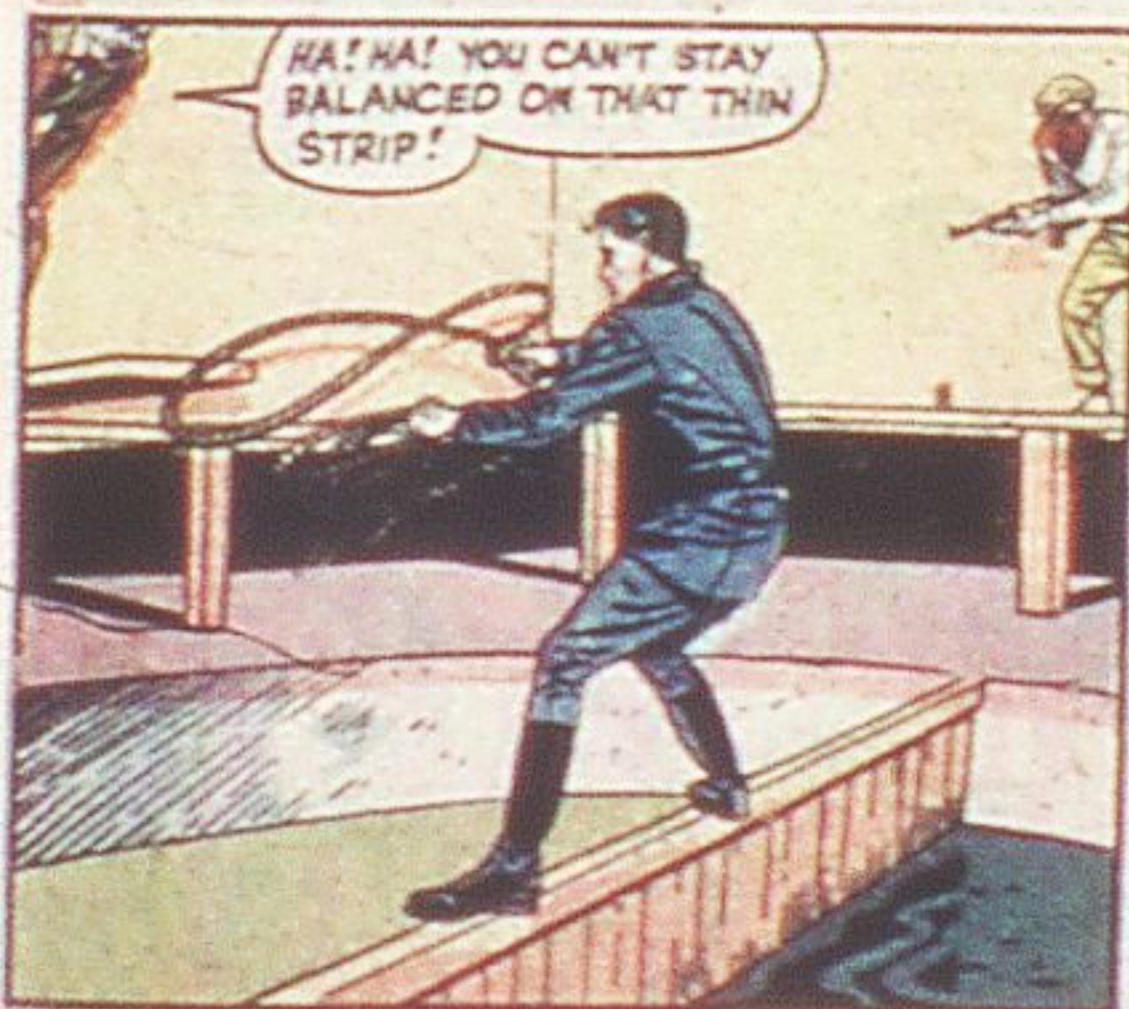


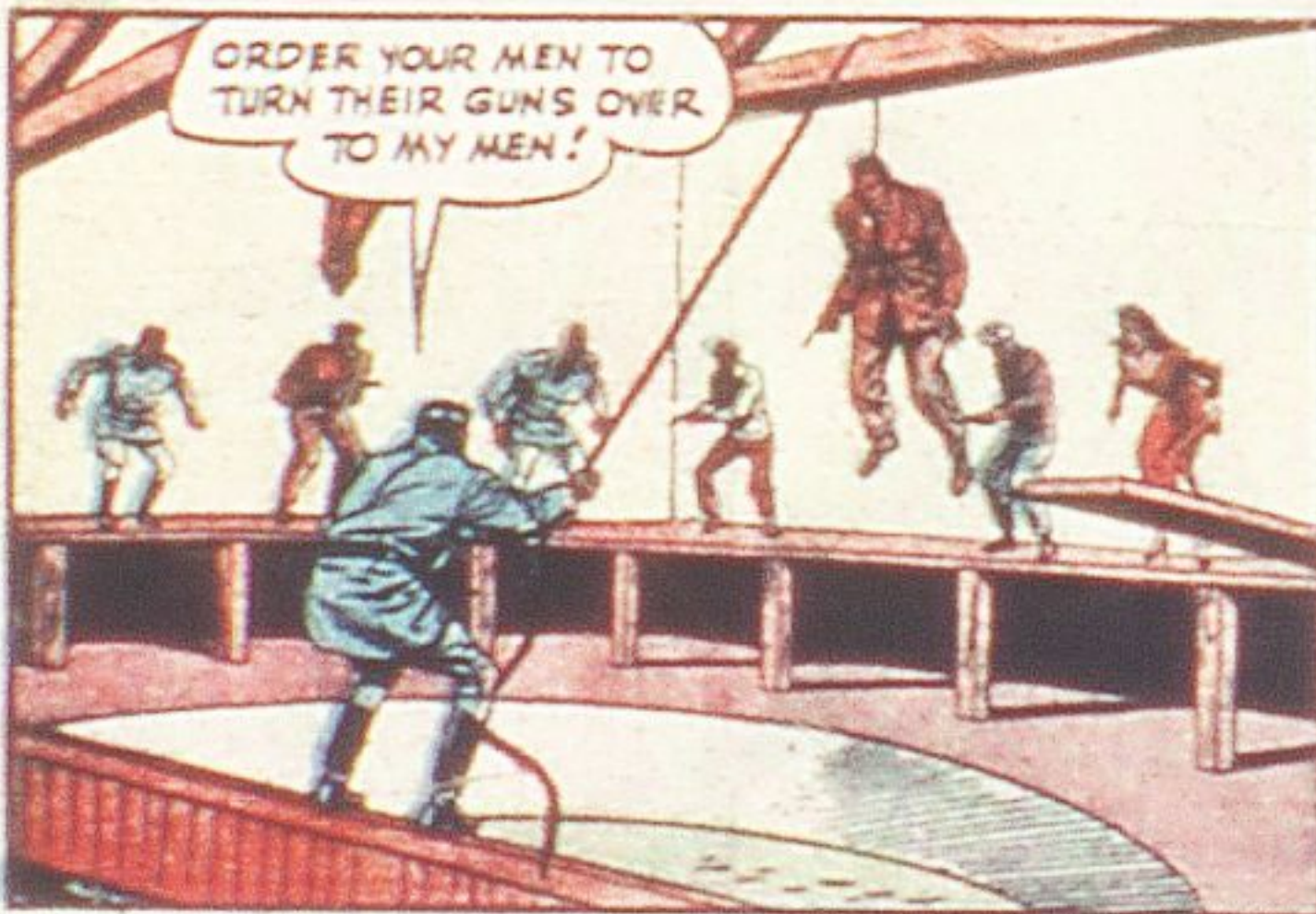
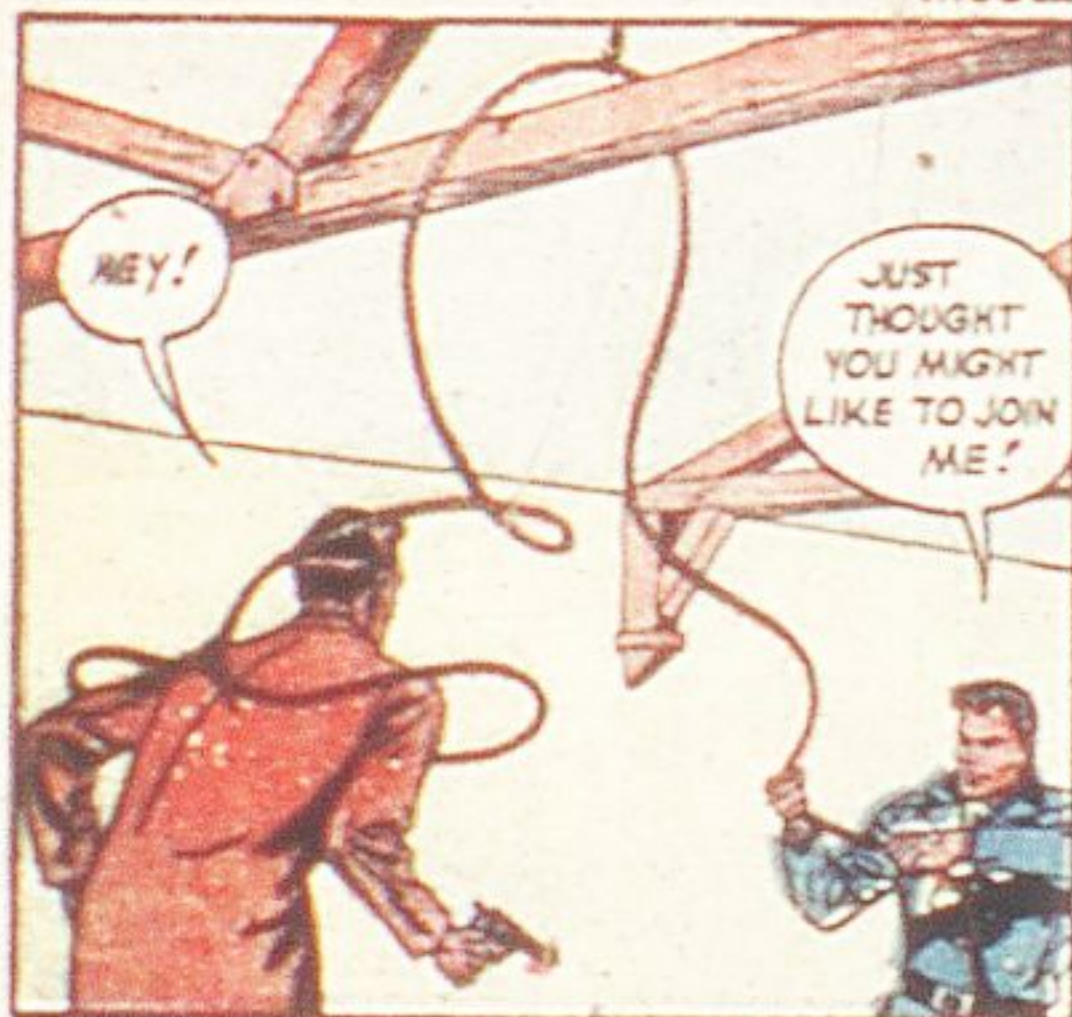




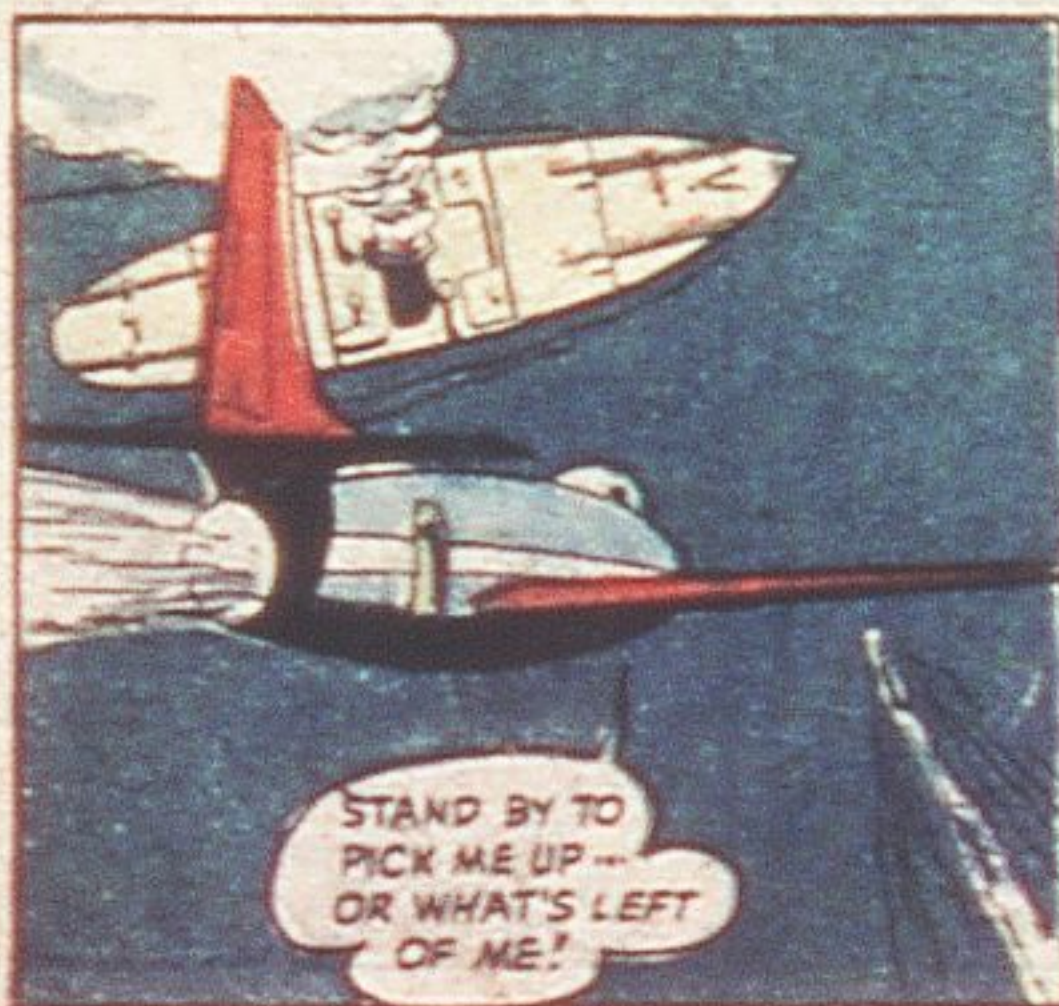
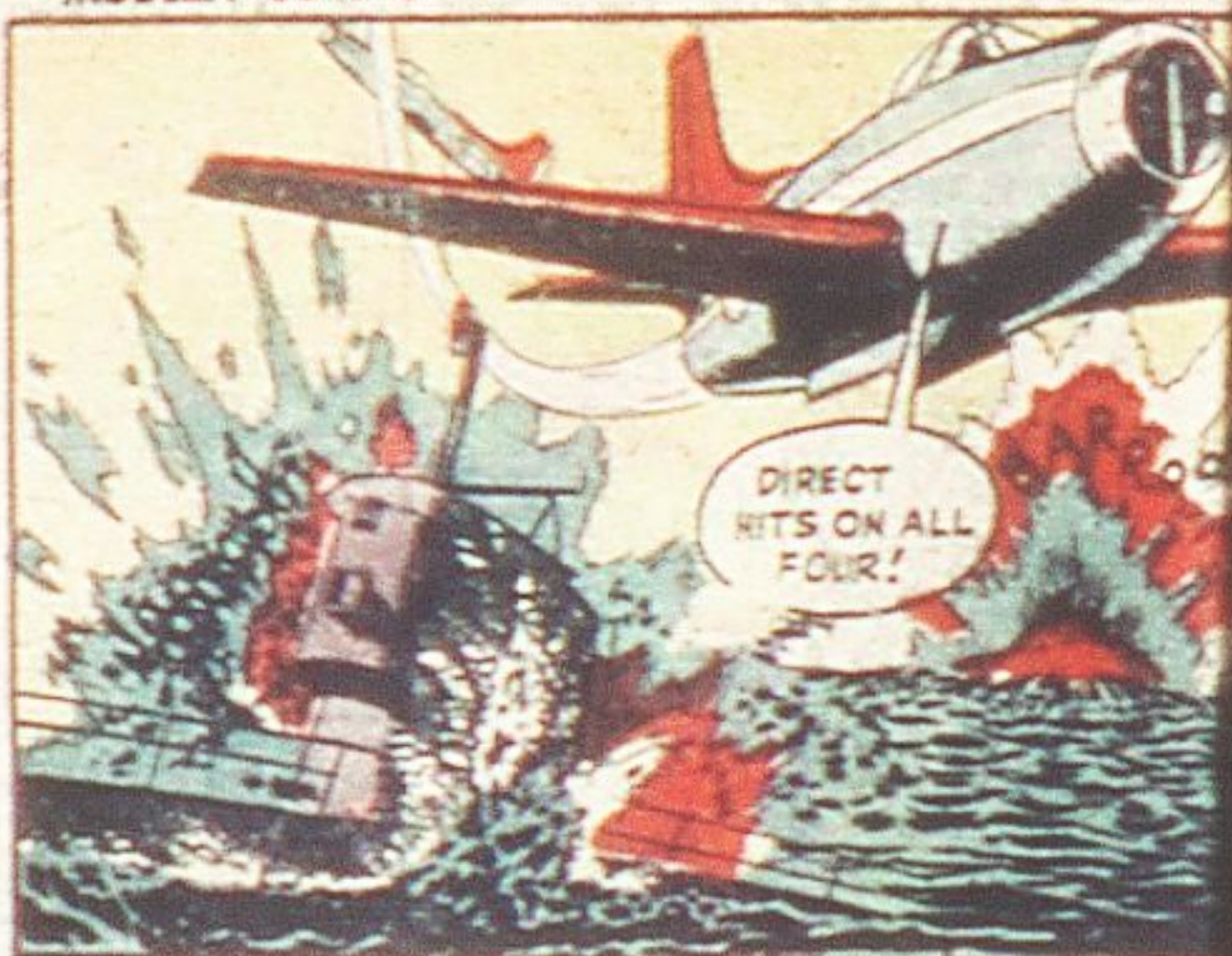


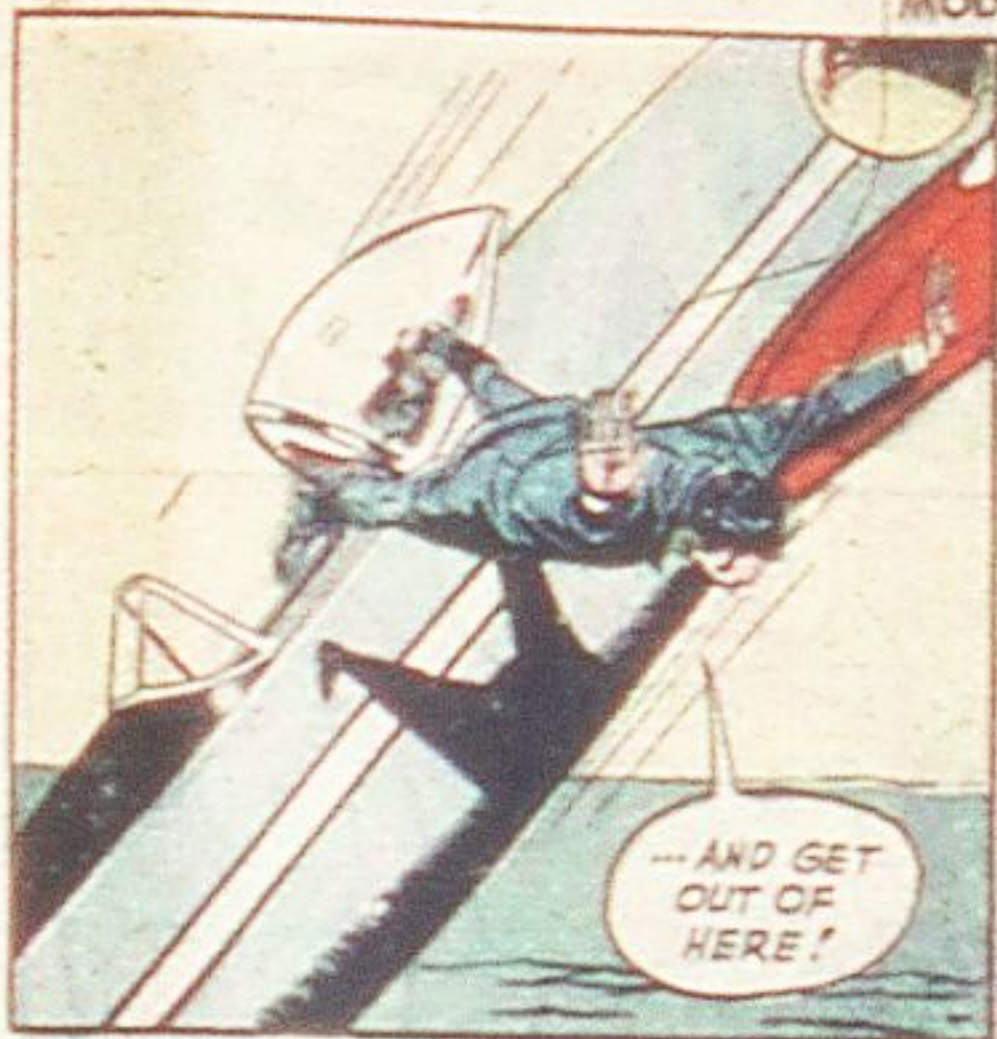
O.K., I'LL JUMP!





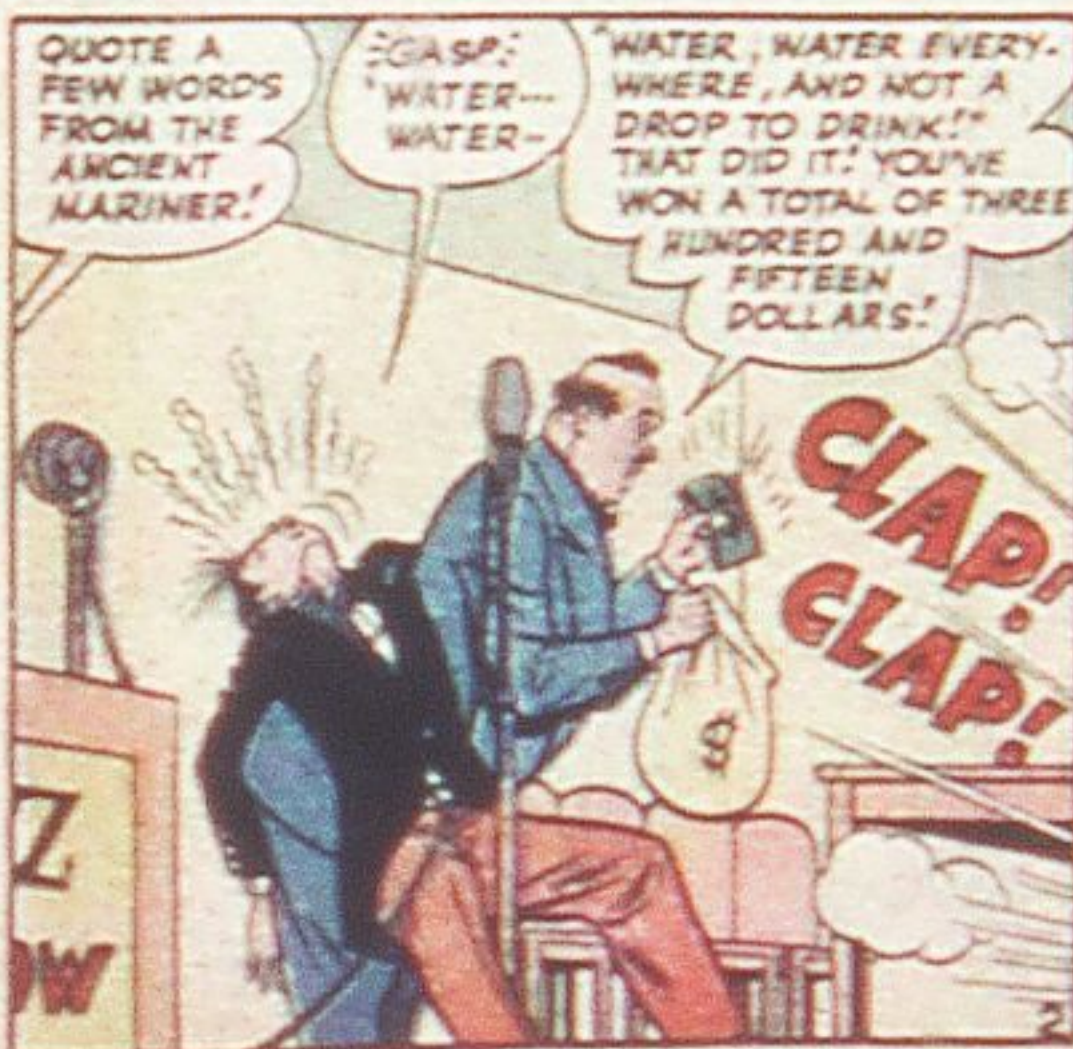


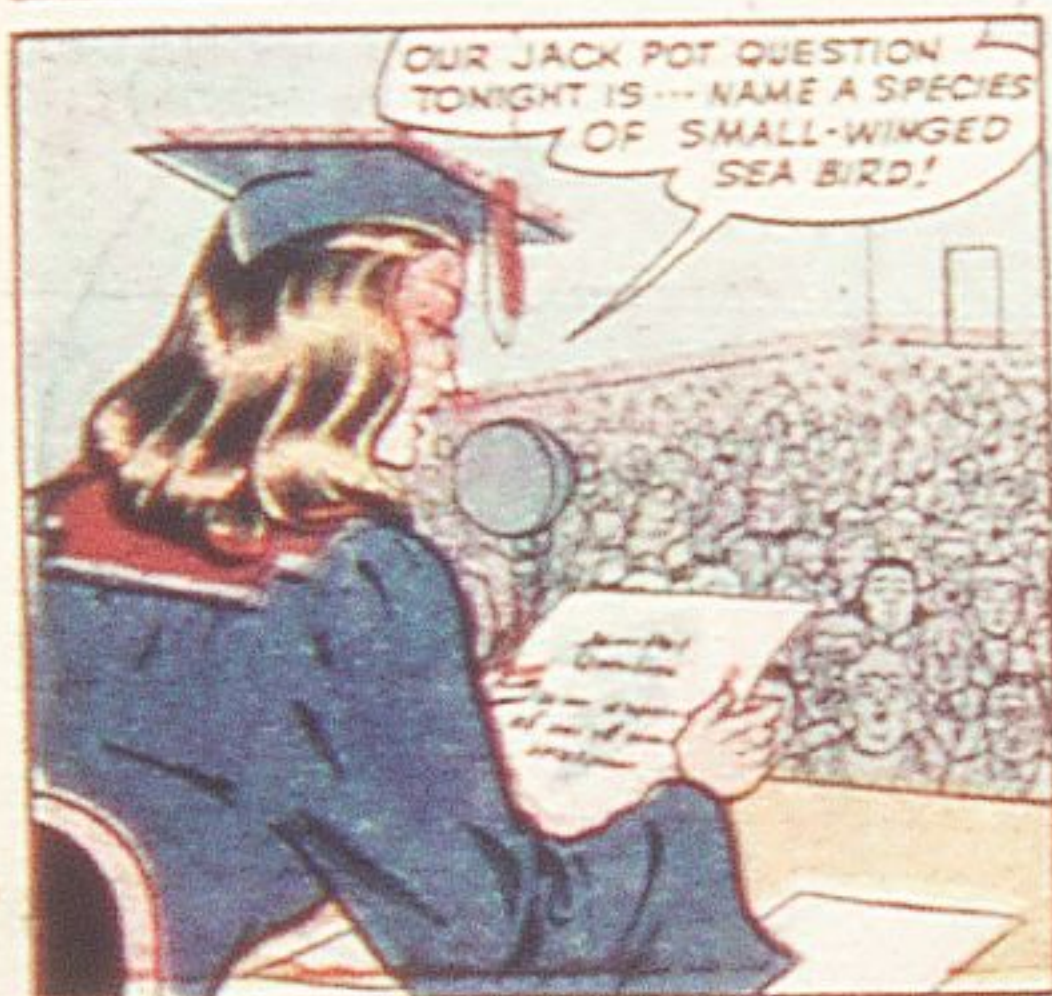




DOGTAG











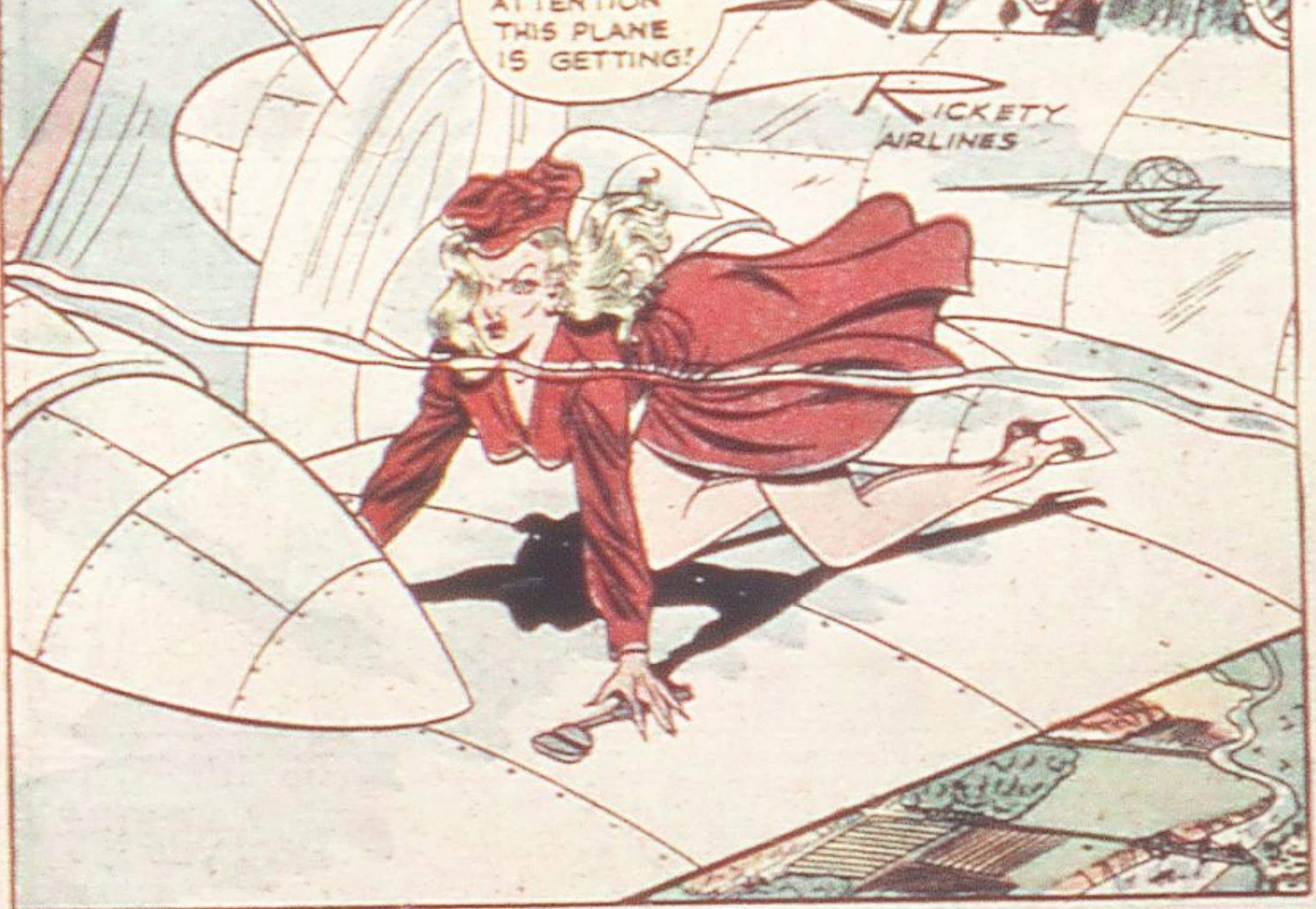


Torchy

NOW I'VE GOT TO DO ODD REPAIR JOBS TOO! JEEPERS! IS THERE ANY-THING A STEWARDESS ON THIS AIR-LINE DOESN'T HAVE TO DO?

GOSH! WHAT WONDERFUL ATTENTION THIS PLANE IS GETTING!

RICKETY AIRLINES



NOT A TICKET SOLD IN TWO WEEKS! OUR AIRLINE'S A FAILURE!

AND I KNOW THE REASON WHY! OUR STEWARDESSES AREN'T PRETTY ENOUGH!

WHAT SORT OF GIRLS HAVE WE HAD ON OUR PLANES? SHOW-GIRLS, FASHION MODELS, BEAUTY CONTEST WINNERS!

IS THAT BAD?



BAH! CONVENTIONAL
TYPES... ALL OF THEM!
I'M GOING OUT AND
SCOUR THE TOWN FOR
A REAL BEAUTY!



I'LL HIRE HER, MAKE
HER STEWARDESS ON
OUR SPECIAL DE
LUKE SIX-ENGINE
OVERSEAS JOB! BUT
FIRST I'LL PUT HER
ON DISPLAY HERE FOR
THE PASSENGERS!



BLONDES! REDHEADS!
BRUNETTES! IN-BETWEENS!
NOTHING OUTSTANDING!
JOVE, BUT THIS IS A
HERCULEAN TASK!



THAT'S THE GIRL! SHE'S
STUNNING... RAVISHING...
EXQUISITE!



A WASTE OF MONEY,
BUYING ALL THESE
CLOTHES, I ASSURE
YOU!



HUH?

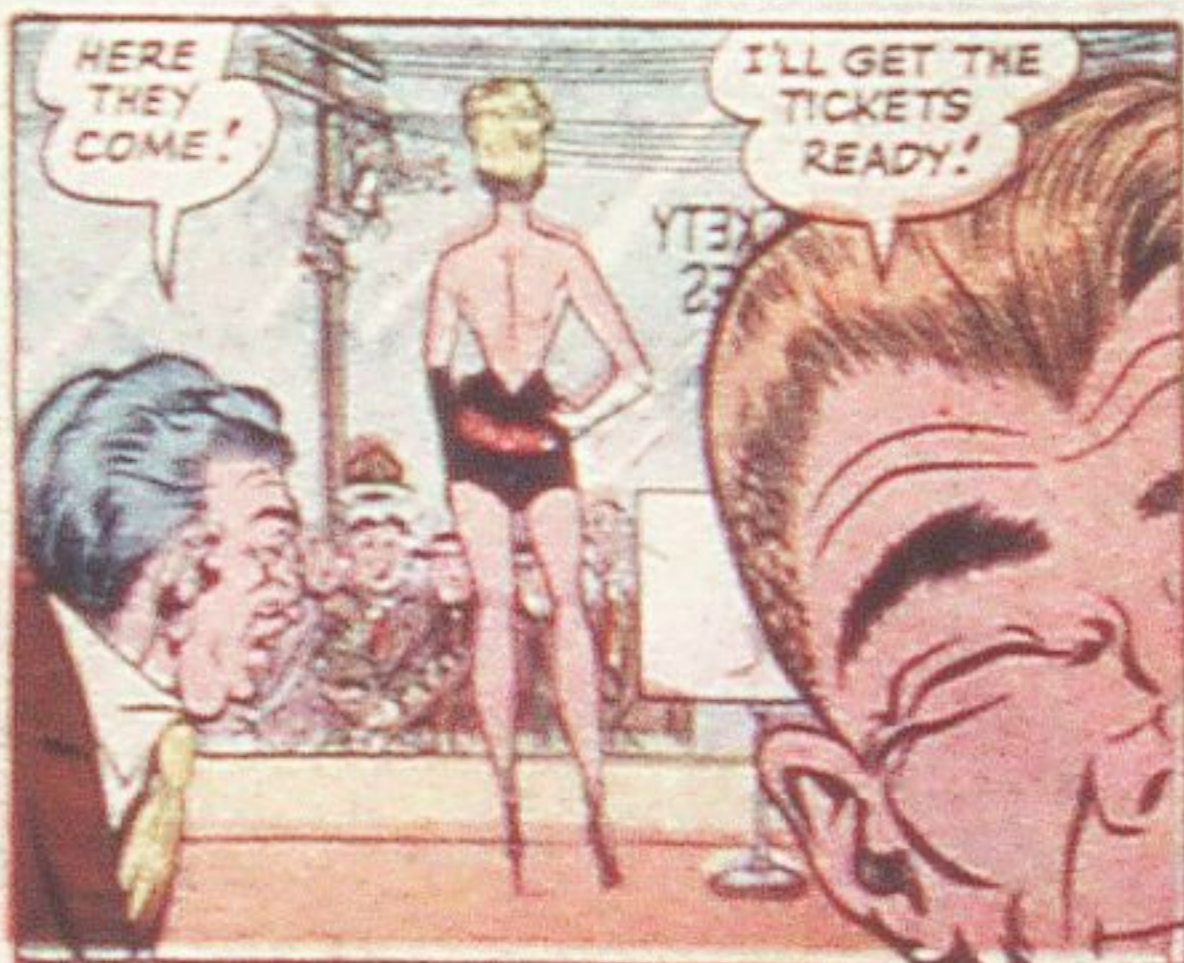
SO YOU SPEND LOTS OF MONEY FOR
BEAUTIFUL CLOTHES! THEN YOU START
ON A ROUND OF DINNER PLACES AND
NIGHT CLUBS TO SHOW THEM OFF!

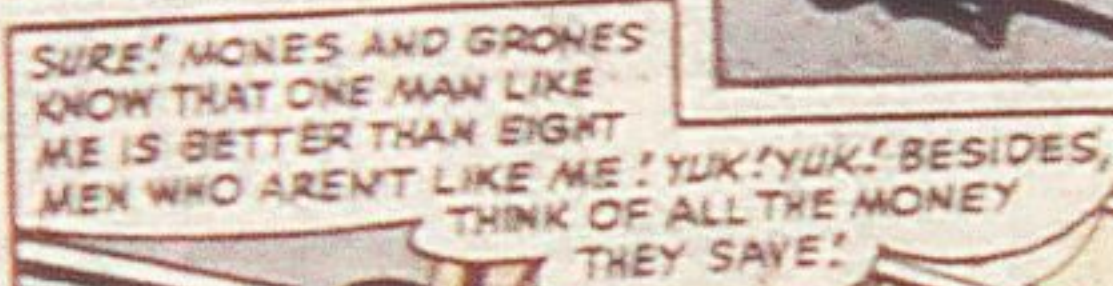
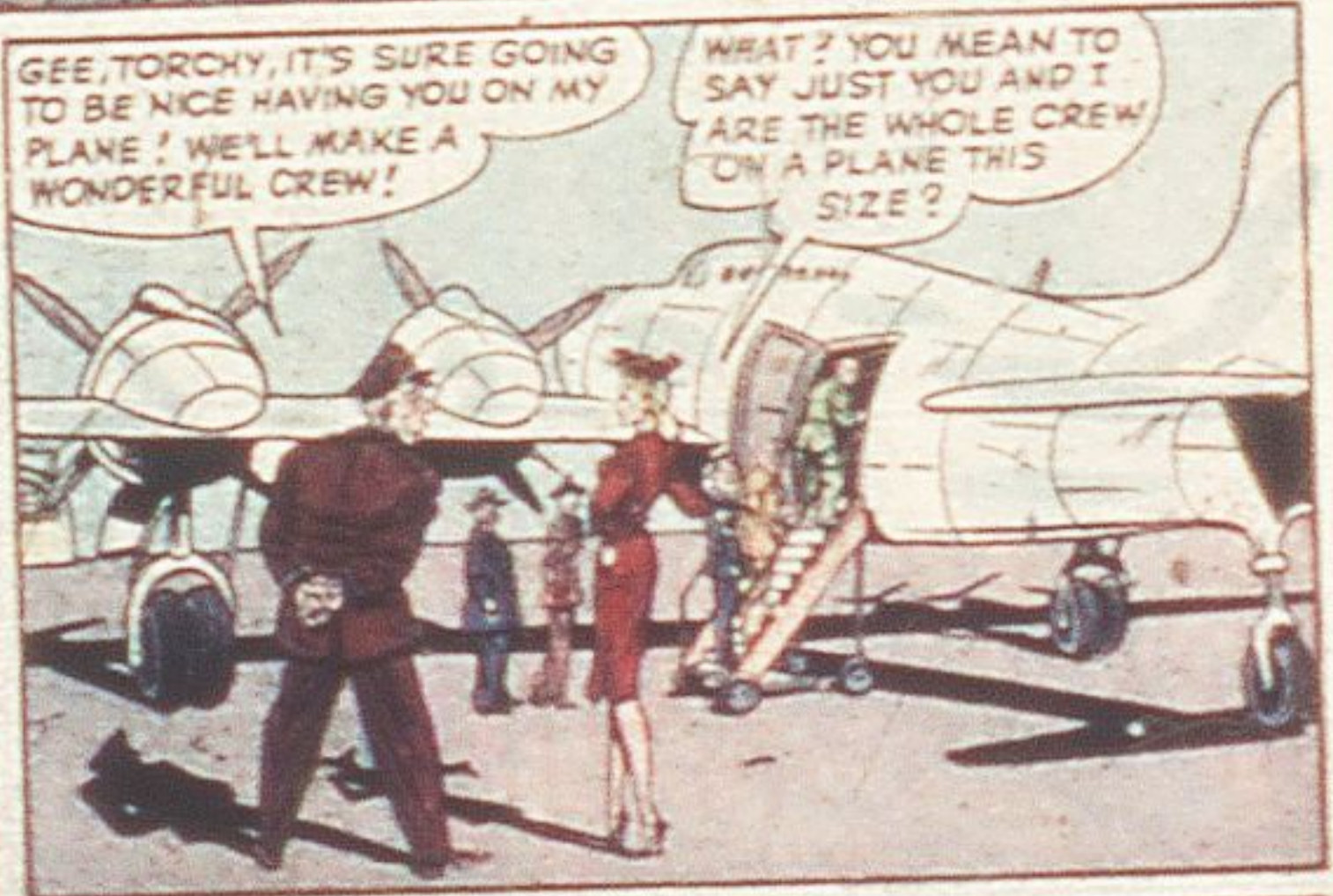
IT SOUNDS FINE
TO ME!



BAH! THINK OF
THE DEADLY MONOT-
ONY OF IT! THE
WASTE OF MONEY
AND ENERGY TO
DO THE SAME
THING OVER AND
OVER AGAIN!











LUCKILY I FORGOT TO TAKE OFF THESE ASBESTOS GLOVES! I CAN SAVE MY NECKLACE!

WOMAN CAN PUT HAND IN FIRE! MUST BE GODDESS! WE MUST CARRY OUT HER WISHES!

ALL RIGHT! IF YOU WANT TO CARRY OUT MY WISHES, PUT OUT THE FIRE AND FREE MY FRIENDS!

WILL DO!

I'VE CONTACTED THE COAST GUARD! THEY'RE SENDING PLANES FOR US!

The Coast Guard does its job ... and then...

YOUR PLANES ARE UNSAFE! WE'D ALL BE DEAD IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THE STEWARDESS!

I KNEW THAT GIRL WAS A FIND!



I'M WEALTHY, MY DEAR! TAKE THIS FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR SAVING OUR LIVES!

FIVE THOUSAND! YOU'D DO WELL TO INVEST THAT IN OUR AIRLINE'S PREFERRED STOCK, MISS TODD! WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO WITH IT?

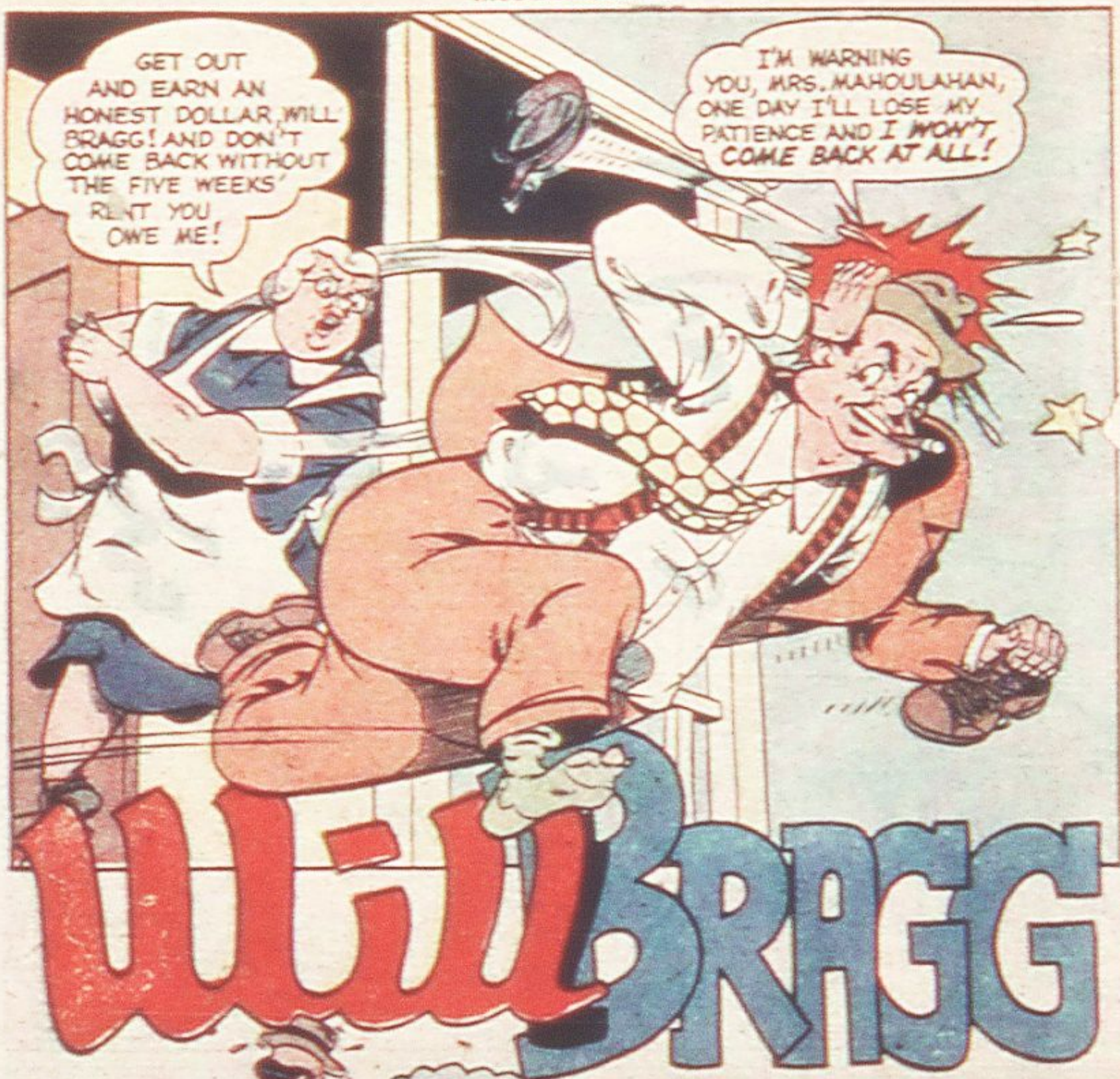
I CAN SPEND IT IN THAT MONOTONOUS ROUTINE OF BUYING CLOTHES, GOING TO NIGHT CLUBS AND THINGS LIKE THAT! I QUIT! GOOD-BYE!

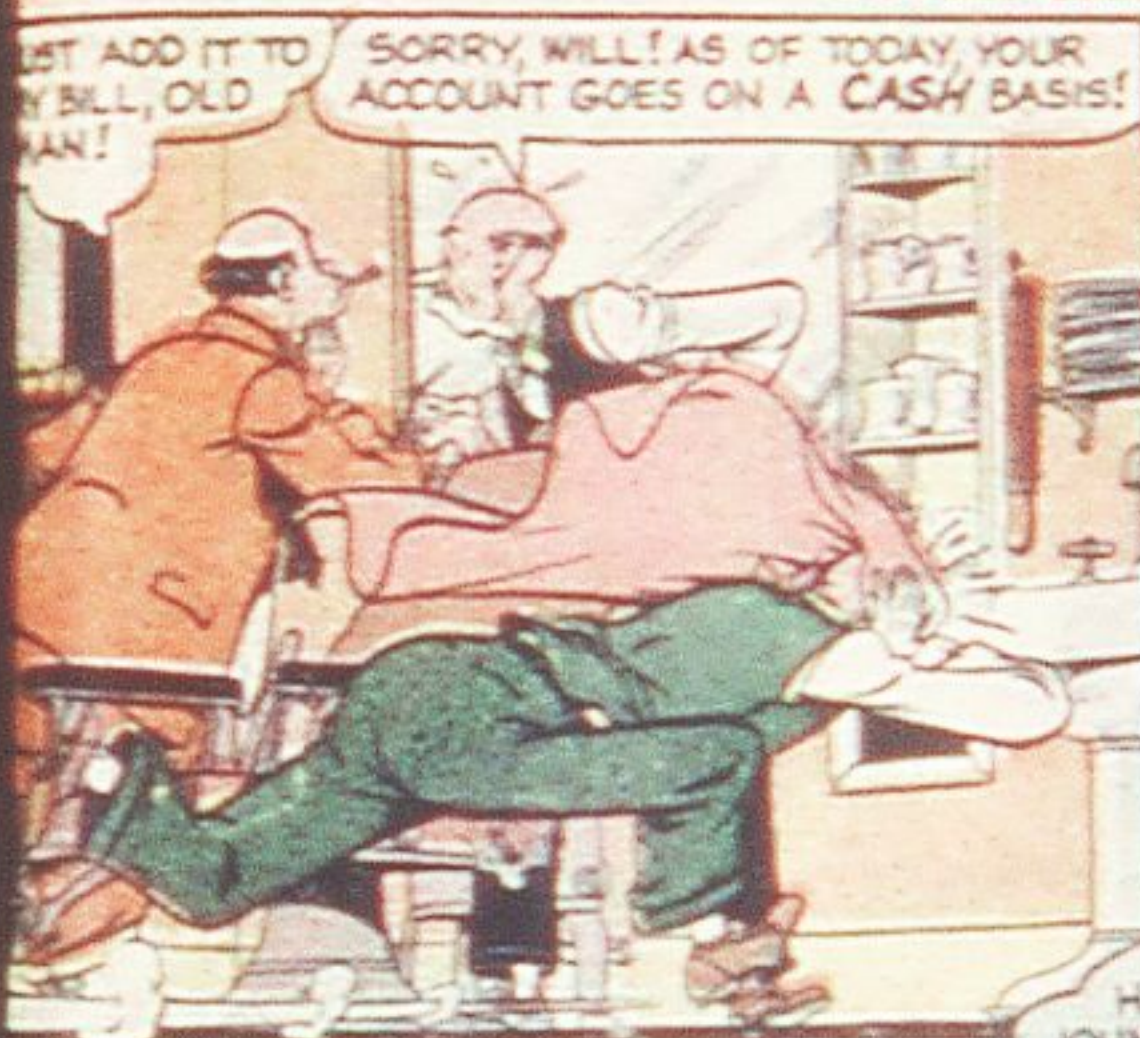
THAT'S GRATITUDE FOR THE LIFE OF ADVENTURE I OFFERED HER!

MONES, MAYBE IF WE TRIED PUTTING MOTORS WITH ALL THEIR PARTS INTO OUR PLANES WE'D BE SUCCESSFUL!

NON-SENSE! ALL THE AIRLINES HAVE THINGS LIKE THAT! I'VE GOT TO GET AN IDEA THAT'S DIFFERENT!







JUST ADD IT TO MY BILL, OLD MAN!

SORRY, WILL! AS OF TODAY, YOUR ACCOUNT GOES ON A CASH BASIS!



I DON'T HAVE TO STAY HERE TO BE INSULTED! I'LL TAKE MY TRADE ELSEWHERE!

DON'T FORGET YOUR MUG, WILL!



JUST A MINUTE! I'LL BE PROUD TO ADVANCE THIS GENTLEMAN THE PRICE OF A SHAVE!

THAT'S VERY KIND OF YOU! UNDERSTAND OF COURSE, THIS TRIFLING AMOUNT IS JUST A LOAN, MR... ER... MR...

HONEST JOHN SHARPE'S THE NAME! I... ER... CAN SEE YOU'RE NOT A MAN TO BE CONCERNED WITH TRIFLES!



HARRUNG!

CORRECT! IN HIS PRIME, WILL BRAGG WAS FINANCIAL ADVISER TO SOME OF THE BIGGEST TYCOONS IN THE COUNTRY!



MR. BRAGG, SOMETHING TELLS ME YOU'RE JUST THE MAN I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR! NOW, I HAVE A LITTLE BUSINESS DEAL...

MR. SHARPE, YOU'RE ON!



A few days later...

THE LAST TIME I TOOK A FLYER ON OIL WAS BACK IN 1911! I SAID TO MY PARTNER, "JOHN D., "I SAID...



GUESS WHO, YOU GREAT BIG CAPTAIN OF INDUSTRY!

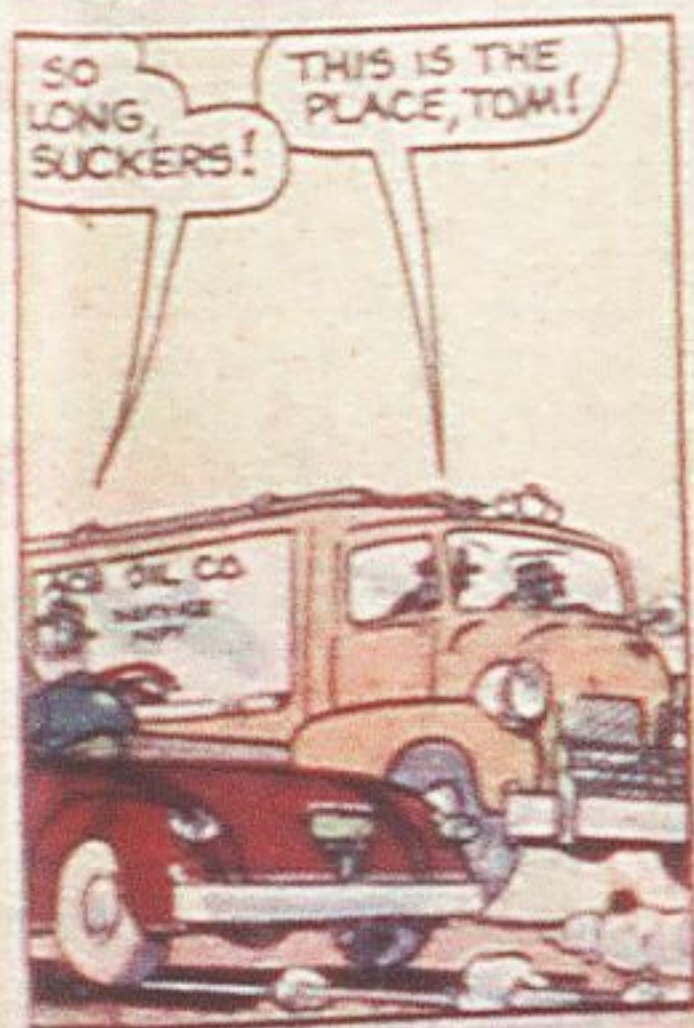
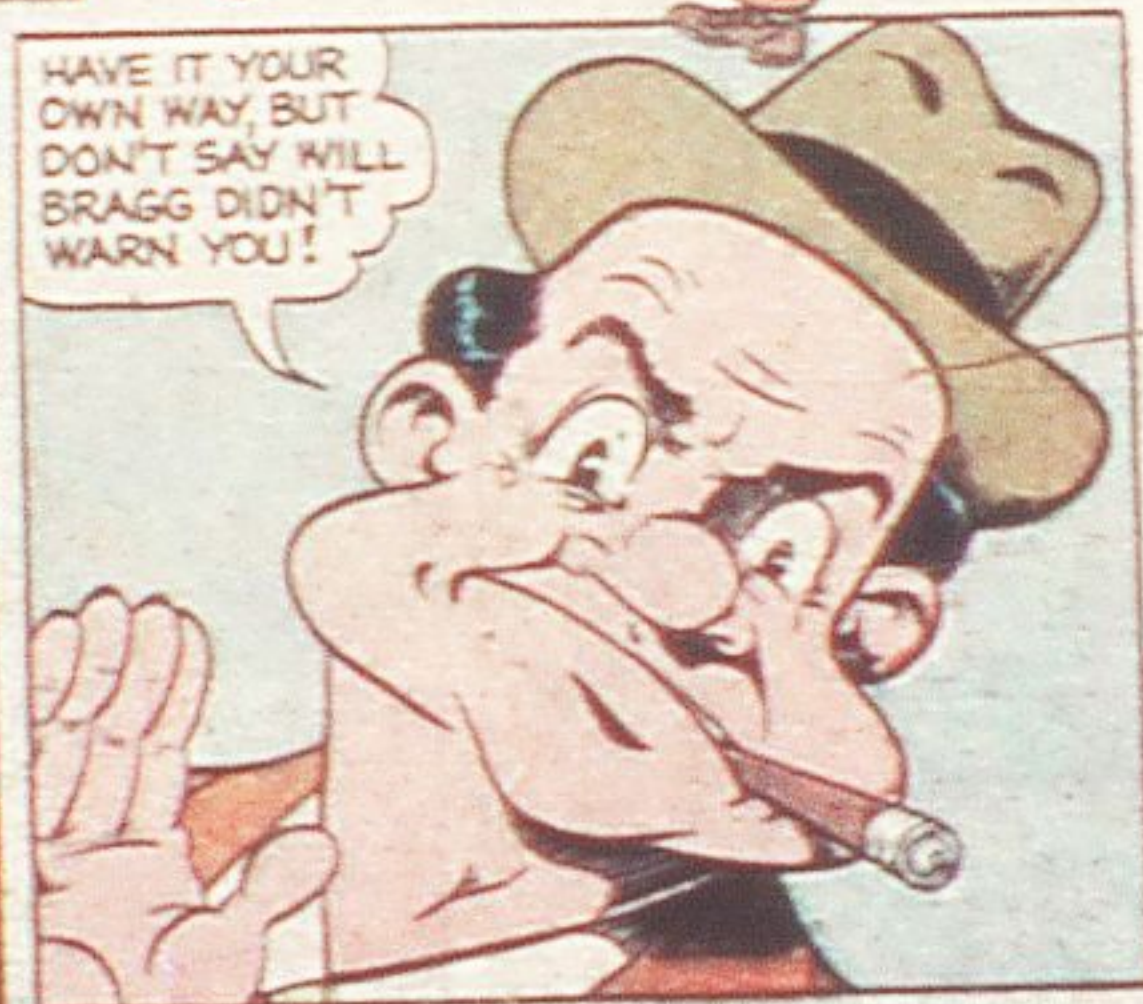
GROAN! EFFY! A MAN IN MY POSITION HAS TO BE CAREFUL OF HIS DIGNITY!

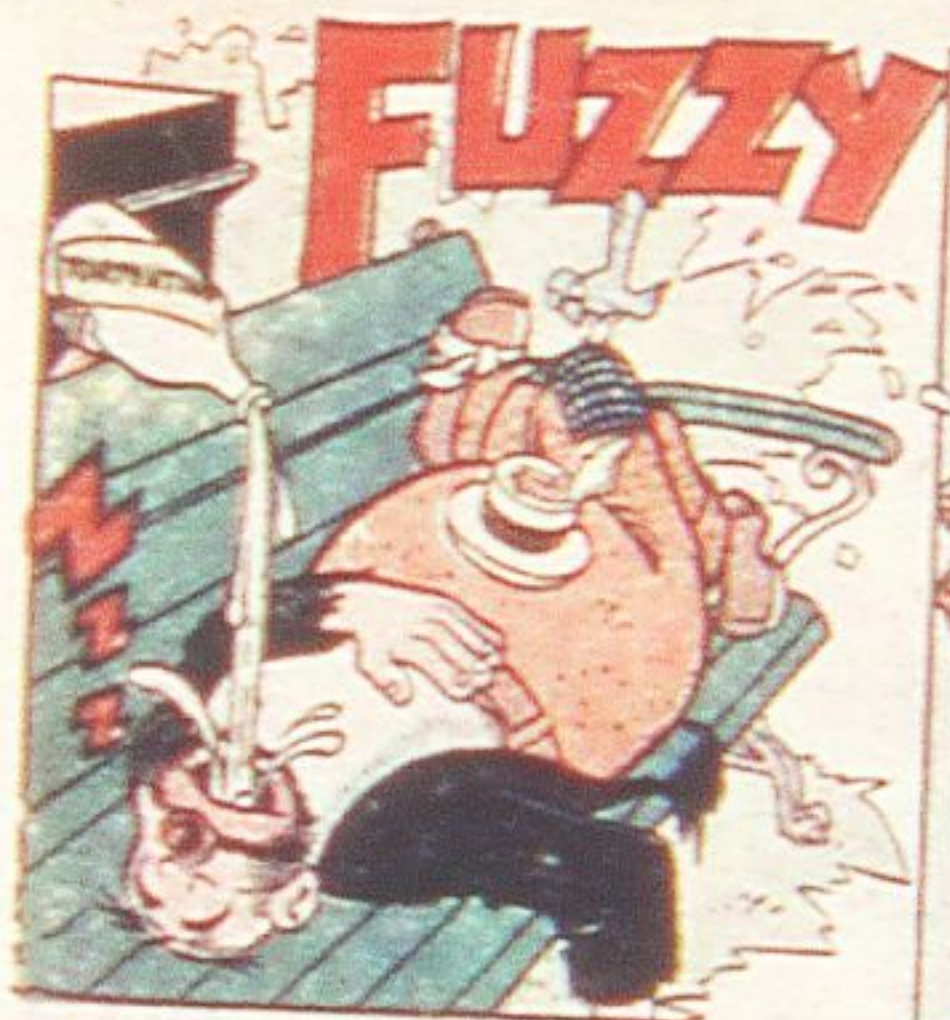




At Honest John's hideout...







EZRA

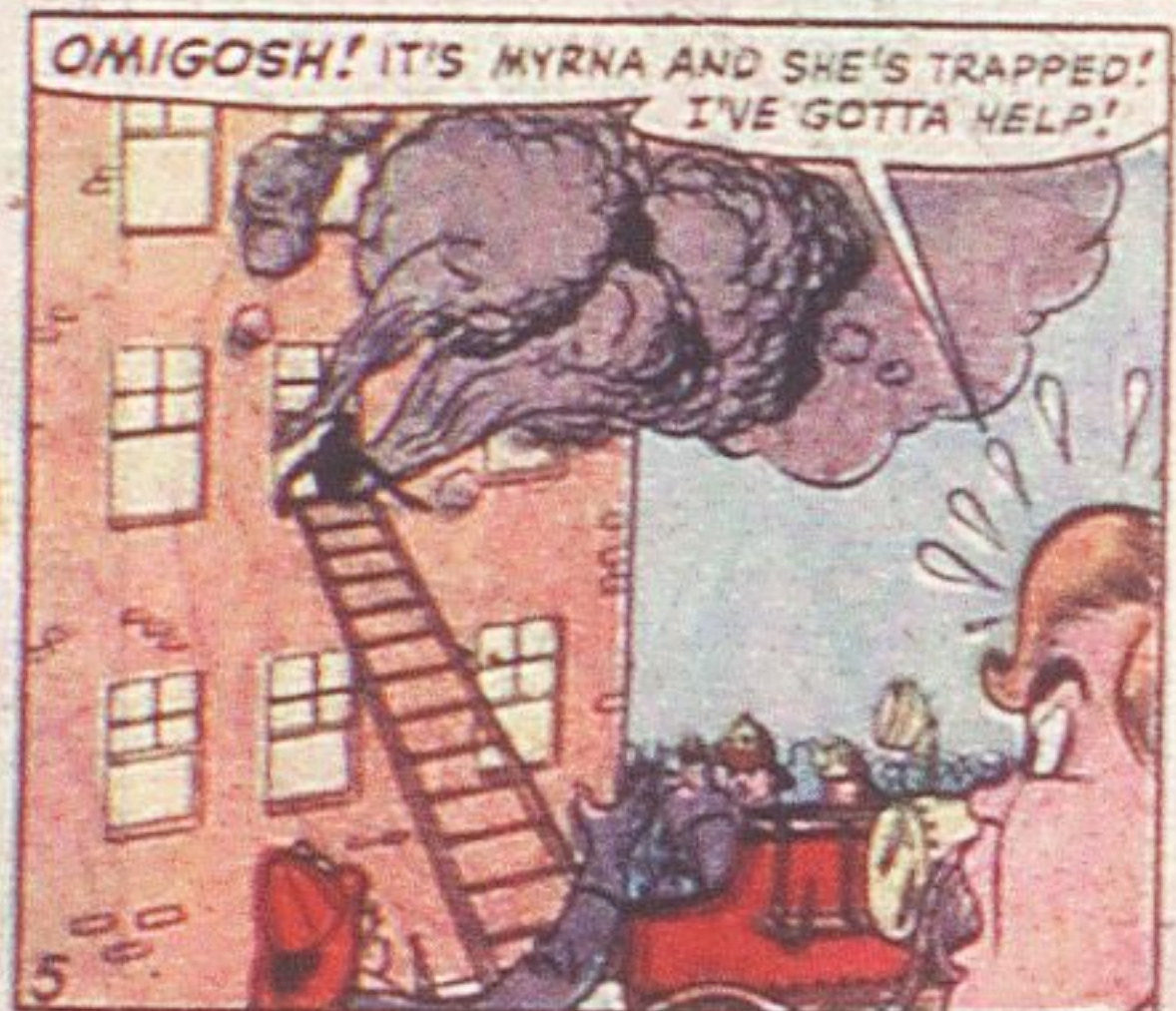
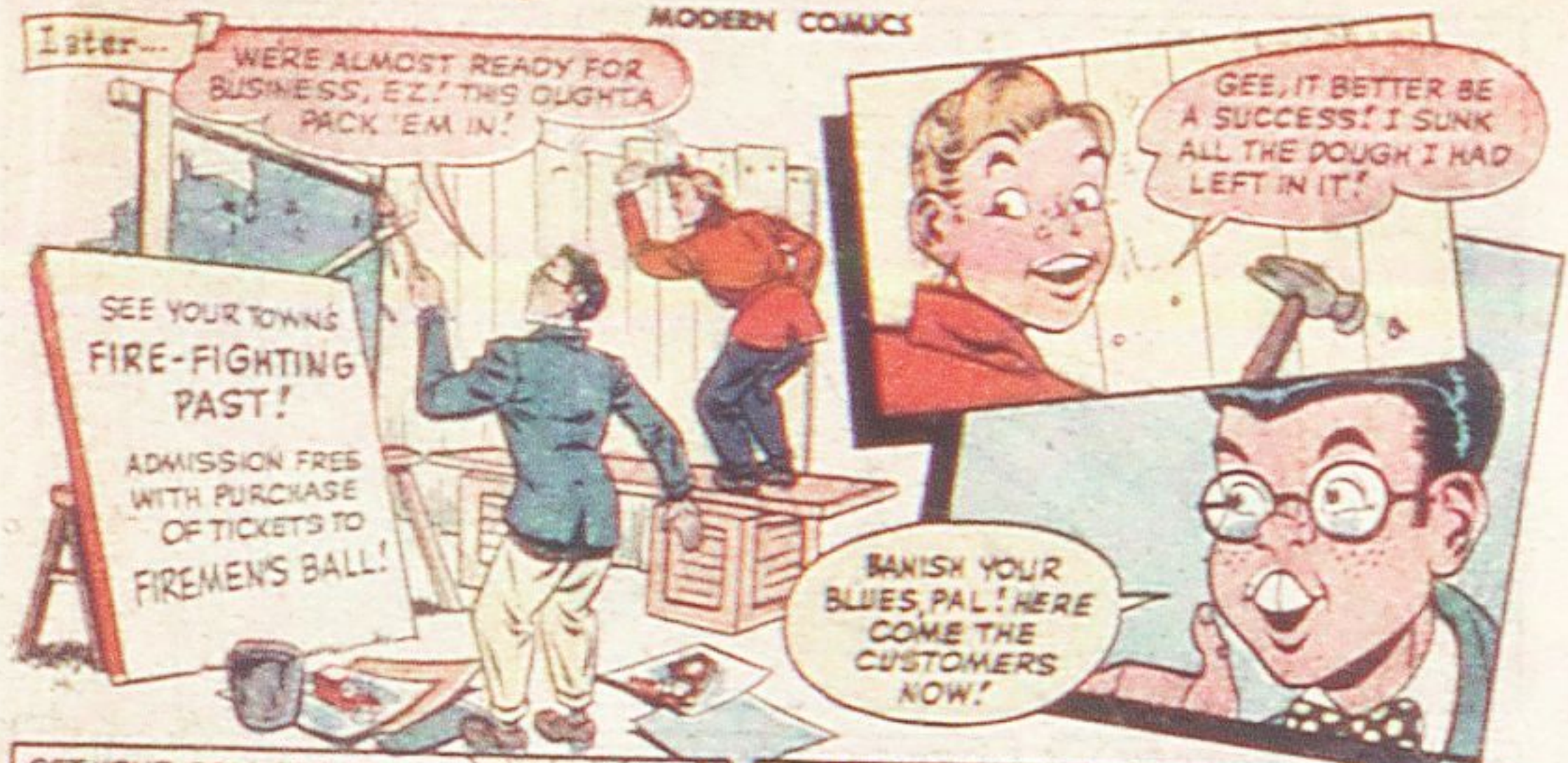


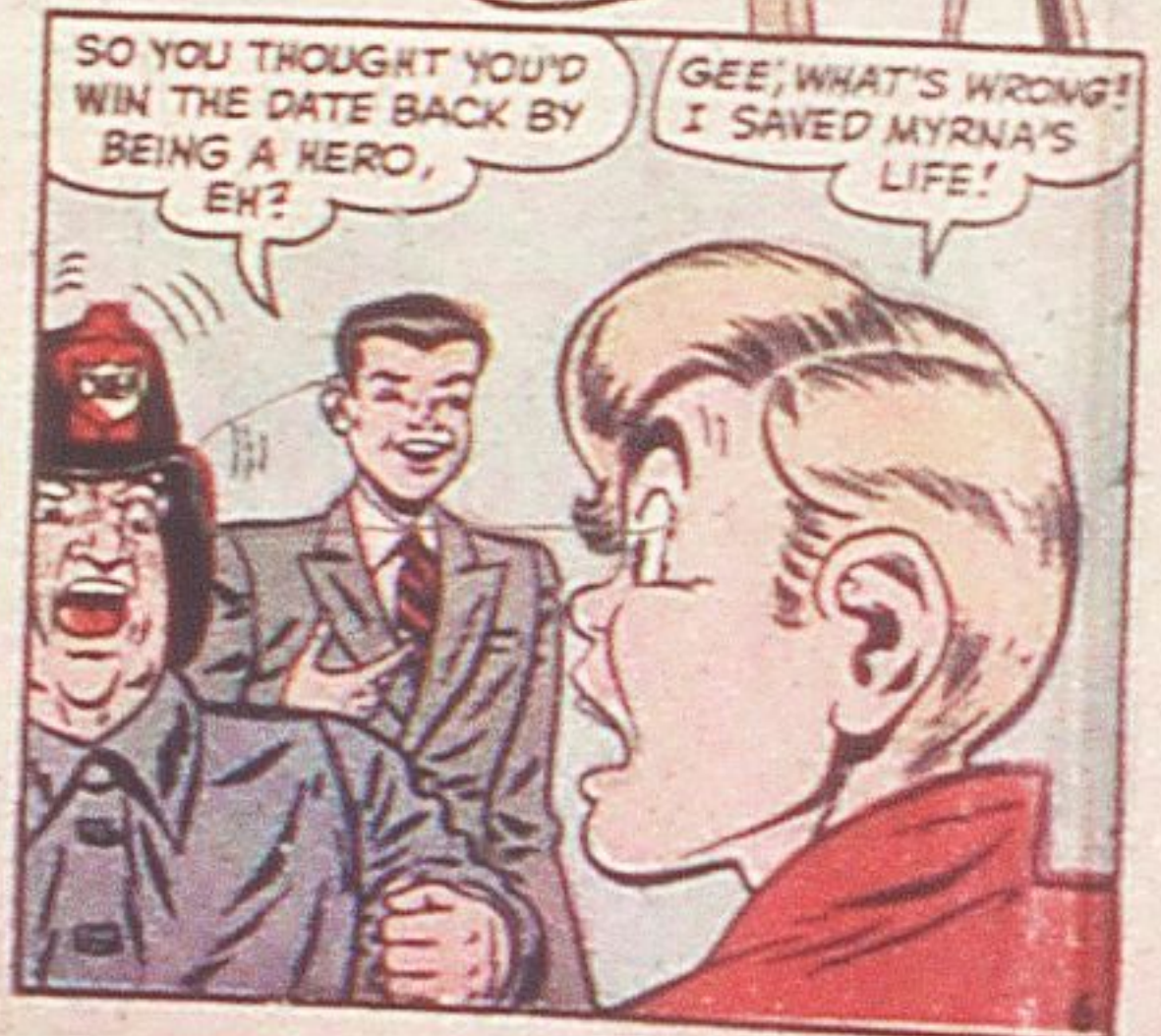
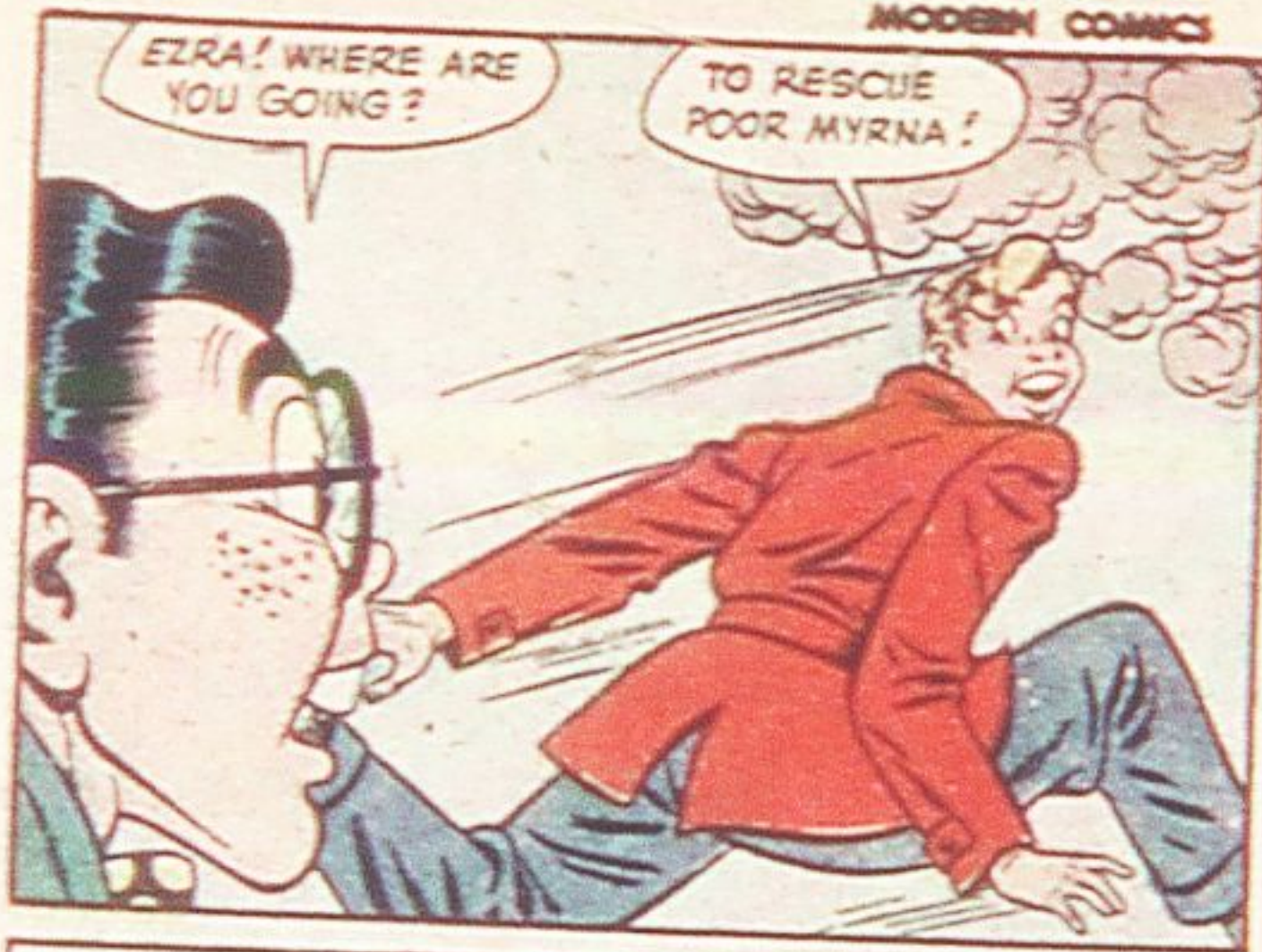






IN ATTICS, LIBRARIES, MUSEUMS! C'MON, LET'S START COLLECTING!







YOU SAVED NOTHING! THAT WAS ONLY A FIRE DRILL FOR FIRE PREVENTION WEEK! MY MEN WERE SUPPOSED TO STAGE THE MOCK RESCUE!



BUT I THOUGHT I WAS REALLY RESCUING MYRNA!

WELL DONE, MY BOY!



MR. MAYOR!

WHAT COULD BE MORE FITTING THAN TO HAVE THE RESCUE MADE BY ONE OF THE STURDY LADS OF THIS TOWN!



...AND SO, AS A TRIBUTE TO OUR WELL-PREPARED YOUTH, I NAME EZRA JONES KING OF THE FIREMEN'S BALL!

WOWIE! KING OF THE...

YES, AND I'M YOUR QUEEN, EZRA! ROYALTY HAS TO STICK TOGETHER!



GLAD YOU SOLD ME THOSE TICKETS, DILSBURY...I SURE WANT TO BE AT THE BALL TO SEE SUCH A FINE KING AND QUEEN!

SOLD THOSE TICKETS, EH! I'LL FIX THAT SON OF A B---!



BUT MOTHER...

YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE GIVING THOSE TICKETS AWAY! INSTEAD, YOU SOLD THEM AND KEPT THE MONEY! WELL, NO FIREMEN'S BALL FOR YOU, YOUNG MAN! YOU'LL STAY RIGHT AT HOME THAT NIGHT!



YESSIRREE! EVERYTHING'S TOPS NOW! WE'RE A ROYAL COUPLE, ALL RIGHT!

AND DON'T FORGET ME! I'LL MAKE A SWELL COURT JESTER!

Jet-Propelled Puzzle

THE Blackhawks walked down the assembly line of the Imperial Aircraft Company, where hundreds of partially completed planes glistened under the brilliant overhead lights. "Quite a setup you have here, Mr. Owens," Blackhawk said, inspecting a slim-fuselaged fighter with wafer-thin wings. "From the blueprints and the design," he continued, "this ship should make all other jet fighters obsolete."

Mr. Owens shook his head and smiled ruefully. "That's what we thought," he said, "and the Air Force thought so too. The preliminary tests confirmed our new theory in aerodynamics, but as you see, our assembly line is at a standstill."

"Vat iss der trouble?" Hendrickson asked. "Der ship is der best I haff seen. Outside of de Blackhawk's ships," he added hastily.

"We don't know," Mr. Owens replied. "We started final tests last week, upon completion of two models for Air Force acceptance checks, and there have been nothing but accidents. Out of ten ships we have only two left. One is up right now with Bill Carlson, our best pilot."

"I'm at a loss to explain it, Blackhawk," he continued. "I'm hoping, with your experience in working the bugs out of new designs, you can help us. Our own engineers are baffled."

"We can't overlook any bets," Blackhawk replied. "Probably the answer is faulty design of some small part, but we'll cover all angles."

The Blackhawks had already started on their assigned tasks, when the wail of the crash siren regrouped them. They raced out on the ramp to see the new fighter careening wildly over the field, its right wing ablaze. In a breathless moment a tiny figure left the ship and, shortly, a parachute opened.

The Blackhawks were under the pilot as he neared the ground, Blackhawk cutting him from the shroud lines as he landed. The leader of the famous group laid him gently on the ground, his face set in harsh lines. "He's been badly burned trying to save the ship," Black-

hawk said grimly. "If this was sabotage someone will pay for it. Bill Carlson is the best test pilot there is."

As the ambulance crew picked up the injured airman, Blackhawk turned to his companions. "I want everyone except Andre to guard the other ship in the hangar and examine it for possible flaws. That ship," he said, gesturing toward the smoldering ruins at the field boundaries, "is too badly destroyed for us to learn the cause of failure. I'm continuing with my original plans."

Late that evening the Blackhawks held a council near the last available model of the XF-102. The sleek ship glittered under the hangar lights as they checked and rechecked the construction details against the blueprints.

"It looks O.K. to me," Chuck said wearily. "I've gone over those radio circuits until I can't see straight."

"Same here," Stanislaus agreed. "The only thing I've noticed is that they have substituted a different type of fuel gauge for the one on the prints. It seems to work satisfactorily."

"Let me take a look at it," Blackhawk suggested. "Mr. Owens didn't mention that. I'll check with him." The two men clambered to the wing of the ship and removed the inspection plate. With the aid of a pocket flash, Blackhawk managed to see the part in question. He reached into the tank and wrenched the float from its mounting. "I'll have to trust to luck on the fuel quantity when I test the ship tomorrow," he said, examining the small glass tube in his hand. "Before we turn in for the evening I'd like to see you, Chuck."

"You are testing ze ship yourself?" Andre asked. "After ze trouble zese ships have given, maybe you better let one of us do it."

"No," Blackhawk said, "the Air Force inspectors will be here in the morning, expecting a good show, and I intend to give it to them. Besides," he added, "I have a lot of work for you other Blackhawks on the ground, while I'm putting the plane through its paces."

The next morning, as soon as the early mist had cleared from the runways, Blackhawk

climbed into the speedy XF-102 as the uniformed Air Force officials looked on. They had already inspected the little fighter and had passed on the plane's construction features and the preliminary ground tests.

The tiny fighter took off under Blackhawk's experienced hand and climbed smoothly. "You may dispense with the low-level tests," one of the officers said over the tower radio. "We are most interested in its high-level performance."

"Roger," Blackhawk's voice crackled cheerfully over the loudspeaker.

Andre slipped into the tower and watched intently as the fighter climbed. "Where are the rest of the Blackhawks?" Mr. Owens asked. "I should think they would want to see this test."

"They are watching," Andre said mysteriously, "but for something else."

"Seventy thousand feet," came Blackhawk's voice, "and still climbing. Controls reacting satisfactorily."

"That's a new record," a be-medaled colonel gasped. "This will be the biggest thing for the Air Force since the invention of jet engines."

At that moment the door of the control tower burst open violently and a disheveled Chuck shouted to Andre, "We caught them just like Blackhawk said we might. They were using ultra-high radio frequencies."

"What's the meaning of this?" a general asked angrily. "Oh," he said, seeing Chuck's uniform, "it's another of the Blackhawks. We'll investigate your discovery as soon as this test is over. Nothing right now could be more important than this."

The ship spiraled gracefully into view and

came in for a smooth landing. The officials were on the ramp when the plane taxied in, waiting to congratulate Blackhawk on his epoch-making flight. "We'll study the camera record of your trip," the colonel said, "but I am certain that our report will be most favorable. This ship outclasses by a wide margin any other jet fighter we've seen."

Later in Mr. Owens' office Blackhawk handed him a small glass tube he had taken from the experimental model of the XF-102. "You will need this to complete your case against the two men the Blackhawks captured," he said. "You'll find it is an electronic fuse on the order of the anti-aircraft proximity fuse used in the last war. The only difference is that a certain very high frequency caused the explosive charge sealed in it to ignite the fuel."

"But Blackhawk," Mr. Owens protested, "how could they install it when we were most careful to guard the plane?"

"The men whom we captured," Blackhawk answered, "did their dirty work before you thought it necessary to put a guard on the plane. They obtained jobs on your assembly line and merely added their booby trap to the plane in a place which was difficult to inspect."

"But why?" Owens asked.

"They were fanatical members of a subversive organization. They hoped they could keep our Air Force from obtaining a ship that would enable us to keep first place in air power. Later they hoped either to steal the plans or buy your bankrupt company to obtain control of them."

"I'm certainly glad," Mr. Owens said thankfully, "that we have men like the Blackhawks on our side to insure our security."

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1938, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 2, 1942, AND JULY 2, 1946 (29 U.S.C. 222)

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1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, Everett M. Arnold, Lucas Point, Old Greenwich, Conn.; Editor, George E. Browne, 12 West 43rd St., New York, N. Y.; Managing Editor, Kate; Business Manager, Everett M. Arnold, Lucas Point, Old Greenwich, Conn.

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EVERETT M. ARNOLD
Publisher

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 12th day of September, 1948
LOUIS J. KULANSKY, Notary Public (Commission expires April 1, 1950.)

Choo Choo

PSS-SST!
CHOO CHOO, QUIT
EATING! THE HERO'S
NOT SUPPOSED TO
COME ON UNTIL
YOU'RE THROUGH
EATING!

I KNOW,
CHERRY, BUT I
HEARD THE
PRODUCER SAY HE'S
CLOSING THE SHOW
AFTER THIS PERFORM-
ANCE AND I DON'T
KNOW WHEN I'LL BE
EATING AGAIN!



WHAT A HEAVENLY
ACTOR SIR FRISBY
CURD IS!

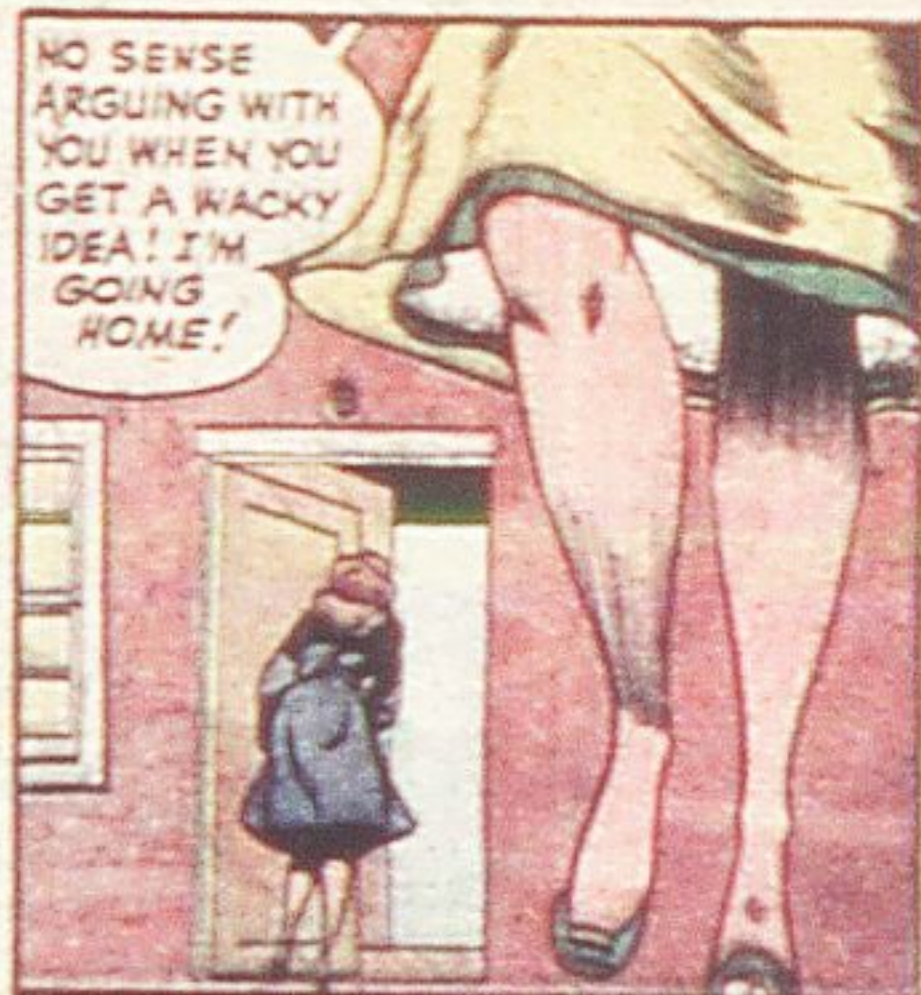
AND PAMELA FROBISHER
IS MAGNIFICENT! NOW I
KNOW WHY THEY'RE THE
THEATRE'S OUTSTANDING
ACTING TEAM!



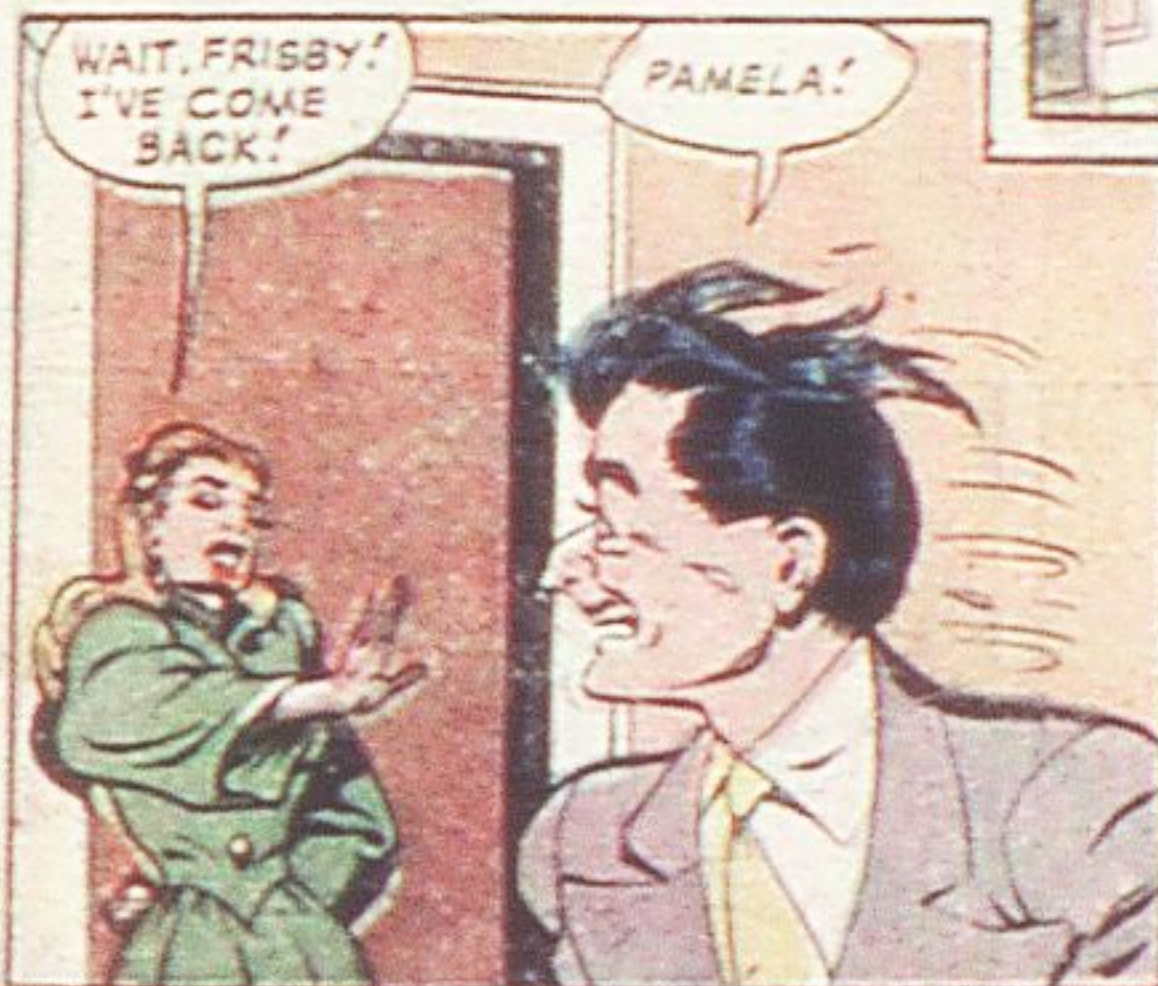
THAT'S ALL, CHOO CHOO! THE
PLAY'S OVER! LET'S GO
HOME!

I CAN'T, CHERRY! I
SIMPLY MUST ASK SIR
FRISBY TO GIVE ME
ACTING LESSONS!











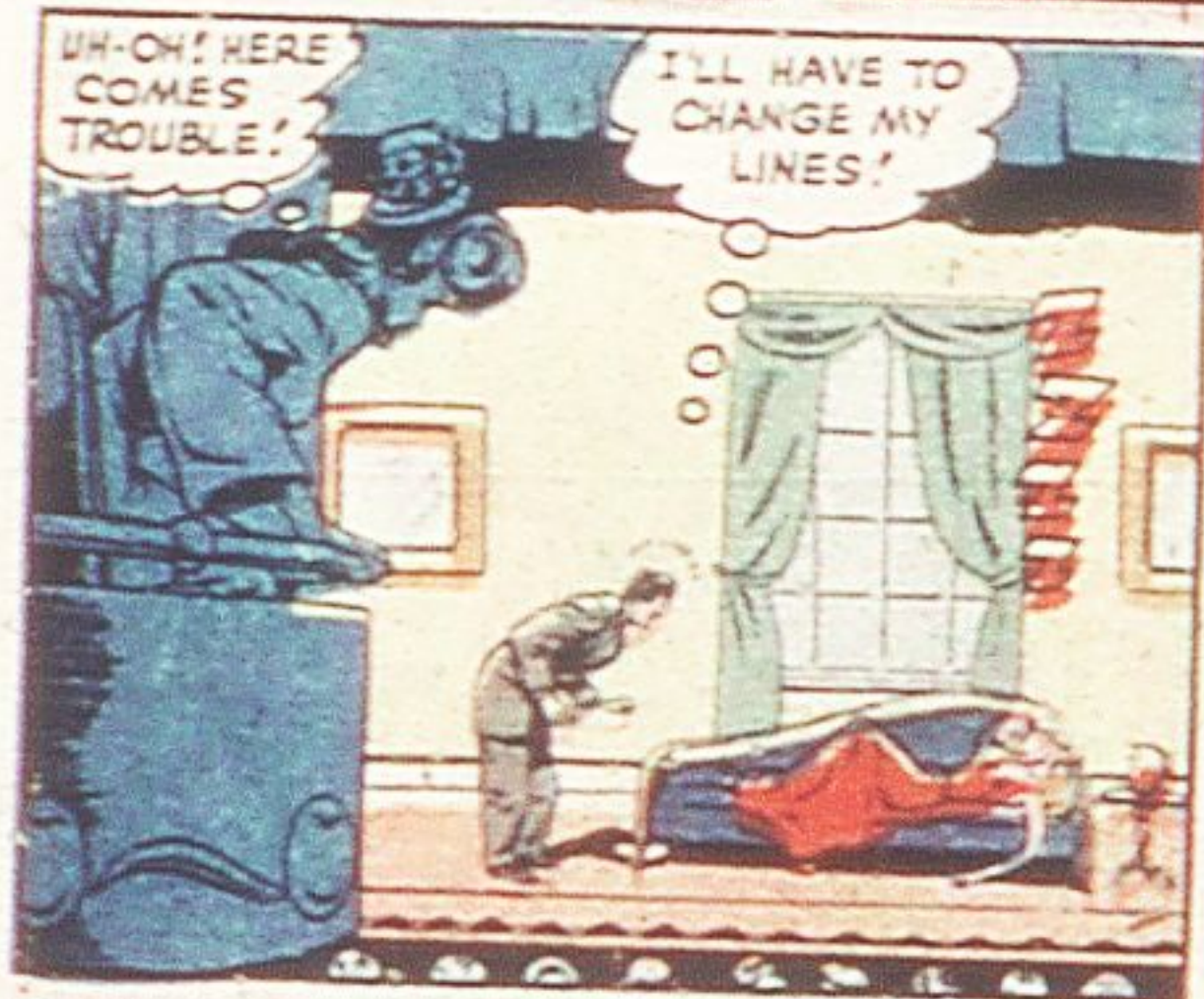
AH... ONLY MINUTES MORE BEFORE MY BELOVED ARRIVES!



GOSH, I DIDN'T KNOW HOW SLEEPY I WAS UNTIL I LAY DOWN! STAYING UP ALL NIGHT LEARNING MY LINES... GOT TO KEEP AWAKE... GOT TO... BZZZ...



GULP! WHAT'S COME OVER PAM? SHE'S NOT SUPPOSED TO GO TO SLEEP!



UH-OH! HERE COMES TROUBLE!

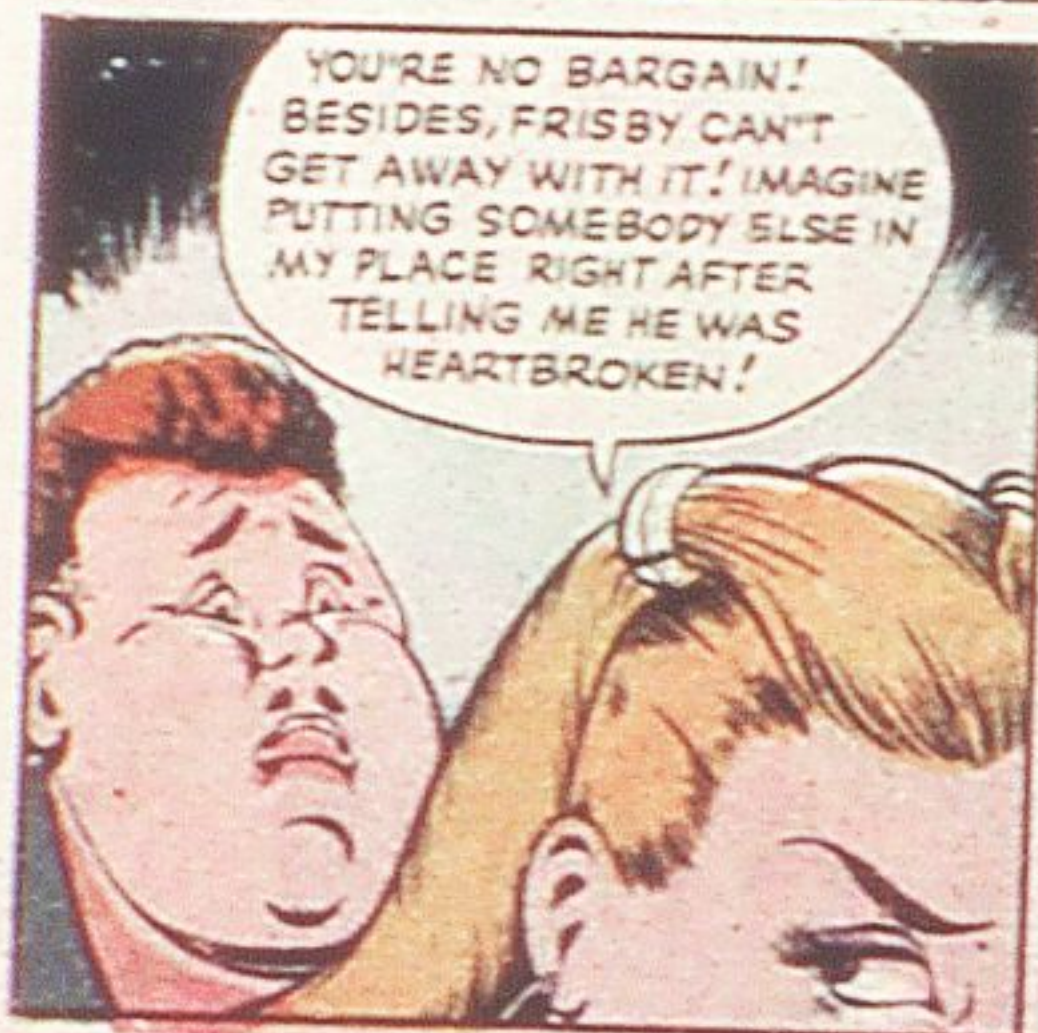
I'LL HAVE TO CHANGE MY LINES!



At that moment...

LUCKY WE WERE LISTENING TO THAT RADIO COLUMNIST OR I'D NEVER HAVE KNOWN THAT SOME IMPOSTOR WAS TAKING MY PLACE IN THE PLAY!

BUT WHY SHOULD YOU CARE DARLING? YOU'VE GOT ME!

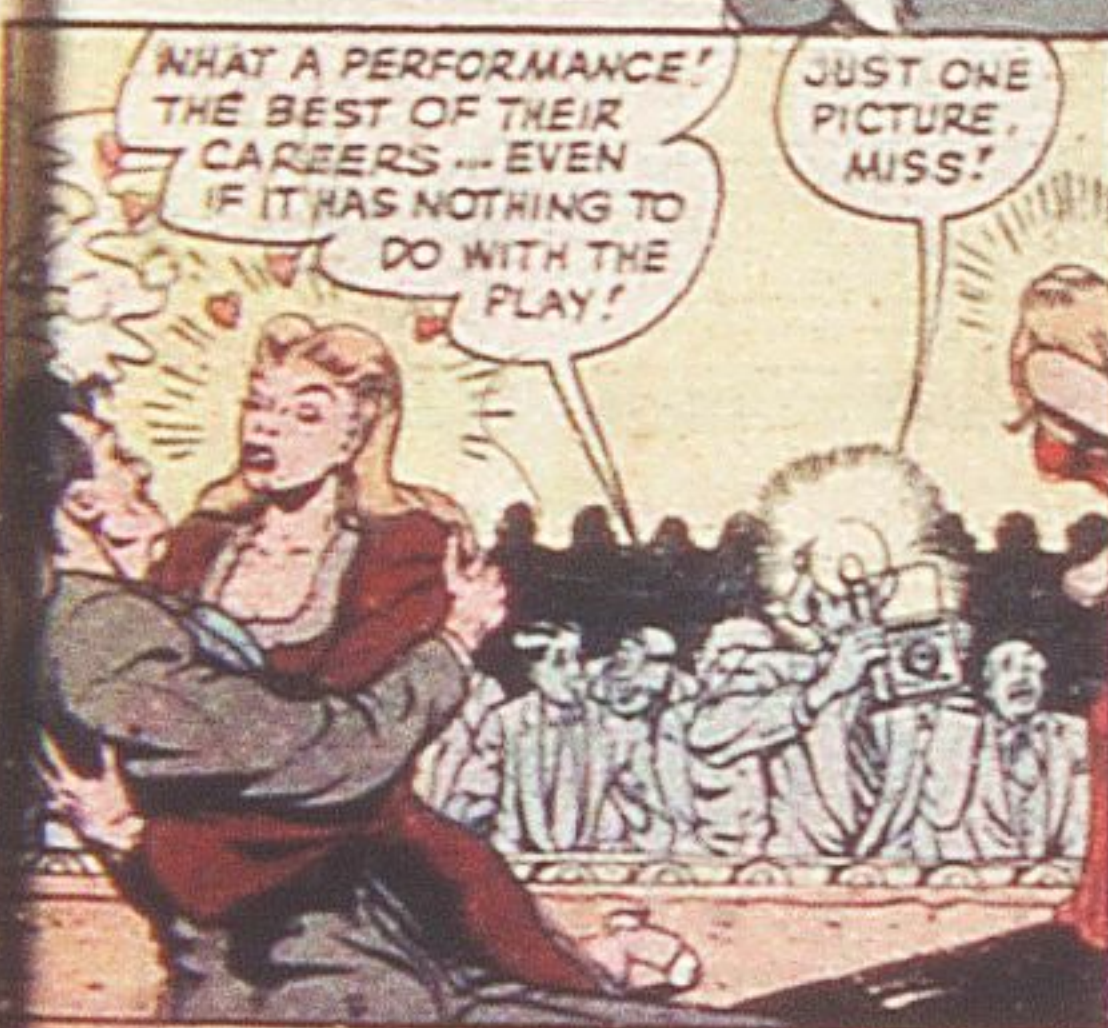


YOU'RE NO BARGAIN! BESIDES, FRISBY CAN'T GET AWAY WITH IT! IMAGINE PUTTING SOMEBODY ELSE IN MY PLACE RIGHT AFTER TELLING ME HE WAS HEARTBROKEN!

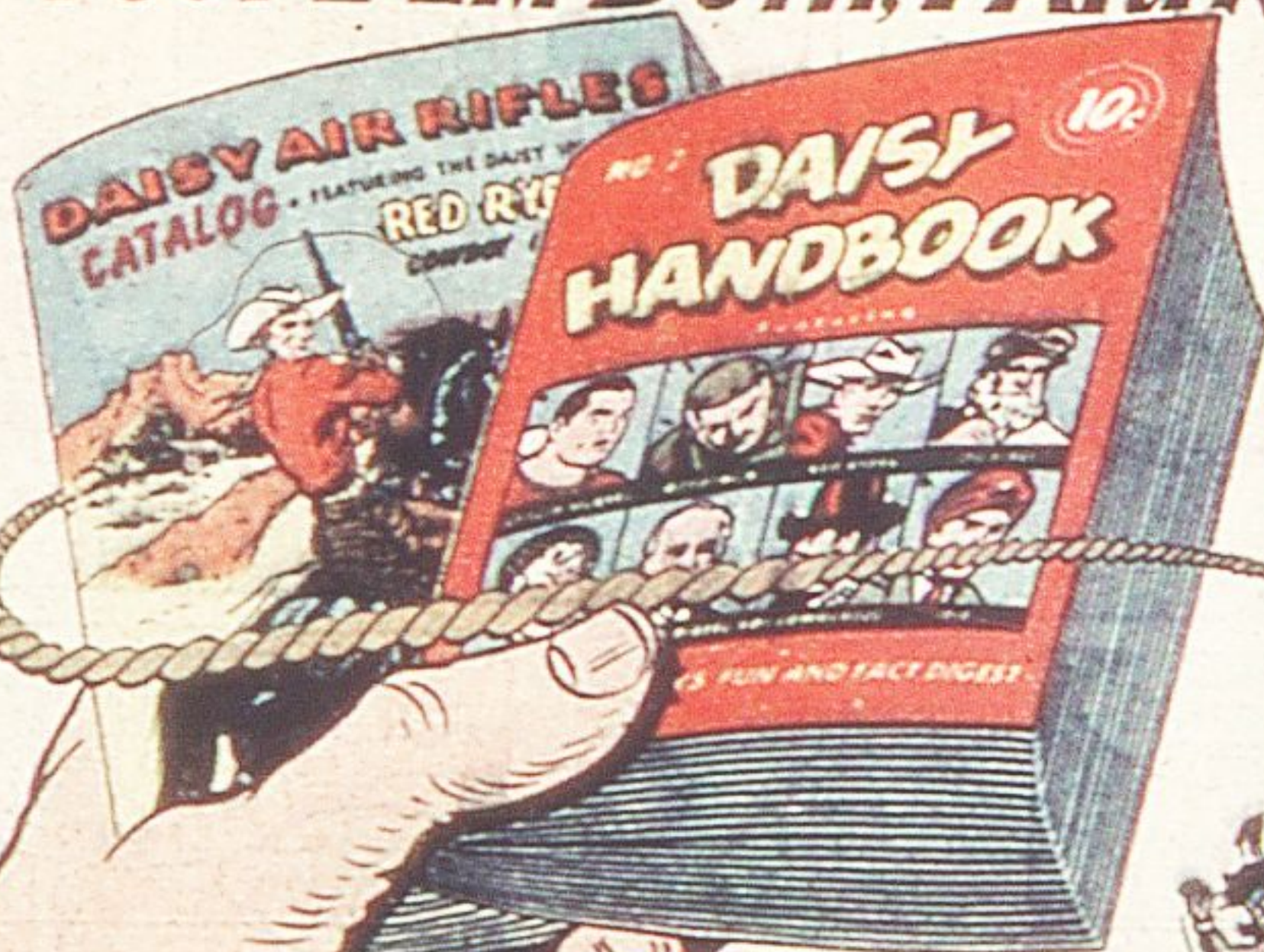


SHE LOOKS JUST LIKE ME!

MY LOVE... IT IS I! AWAKE!



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and a 3¢
Stamp!



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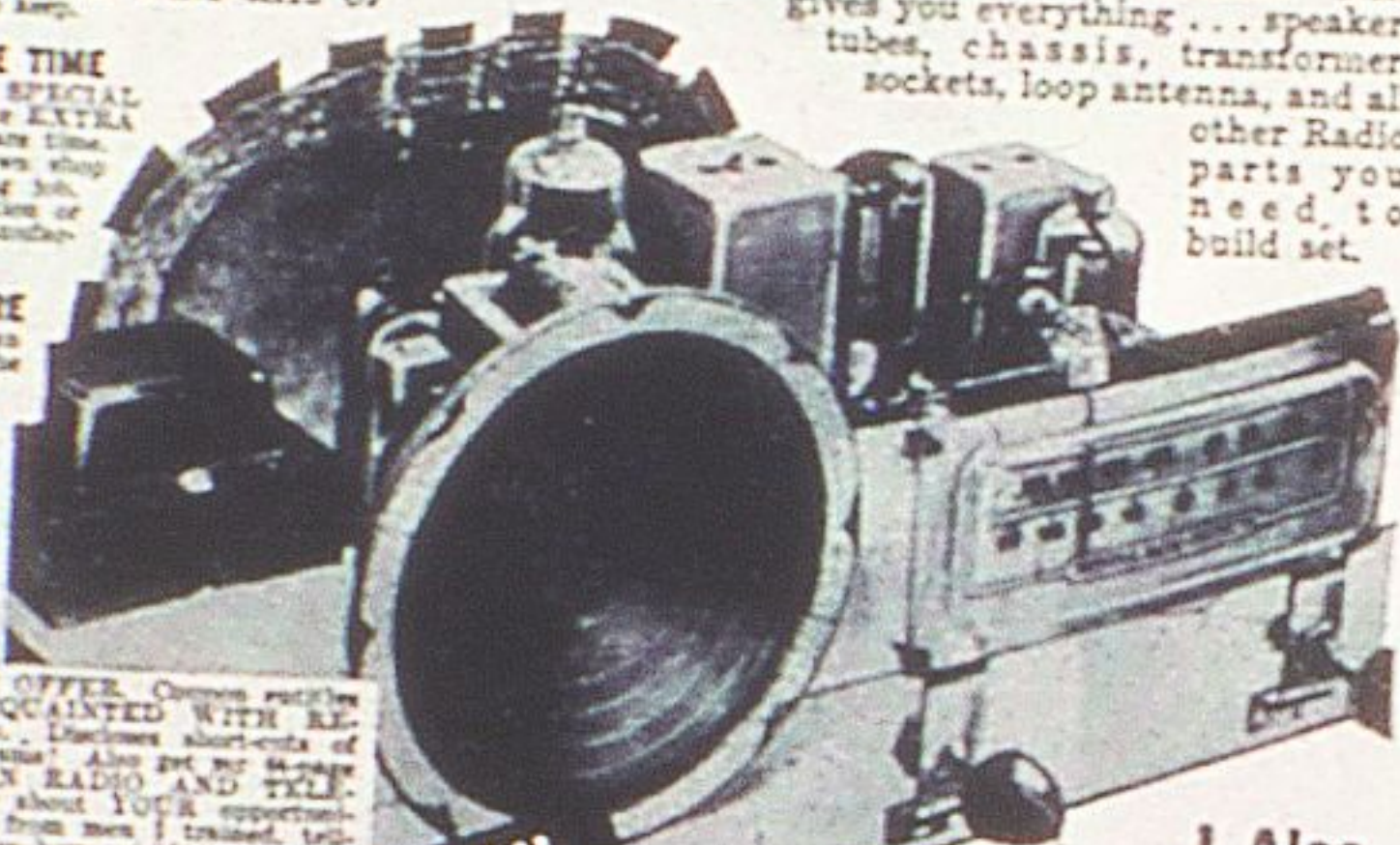
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